

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Greatest movie stars list gets more jeers than cheers

Page 12



Shocking developments: Vermont, Bucknell score huge upsets in first round

Back page



Vermont's Taylor Coppernath

Volume 2, No.342 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005

DOD reveals change to sex assault policy

Victims will have more time between reporting crime, investigation

Page 7

Brilliant stunt, noble cause

Writer sells 'ice' from \$9,800 martini and gives proceeds to families of war wounded

Page 8

Photo courtesy of Algonquin Hotel

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER/Stars and Stripes

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Afghanistan, Kuwait,
Iraq, and Qatar giving
you up-to-date daily
news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at

49-6155-601-455

DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
lraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

States

Nightclub fire: A California judge has dismissed a \$10 million slander lawsuit filed against a former publicist for the rock band Great White, whose pyrotechnics caused The Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

Great White's lead singer, Jack Russell, had sued the publicist, Charlie Foglio, for saying he and the band's manager embezzled money raised during a benefit concert tour for those affected by the deadly blaze. Russell alleged Foglio made the statements after she was fired as the band's publicist and was refused a severance payment.

Truck bodies case: The driver of a tractor-trailer in the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt was an inexperienced pawn of a smuggling ring who didn't know 17 immigrants were dying in the airless truck, the defense said in closing arguments.

Tyrone Williams' lawyer said Friday that his client didn't speak Spanish and couldn't hear the immigrants banging on the walls to get out.

The immigrants died after succumbing to the heat in the sweltering trailer, which was packed with more than 70 people. Two others died later.

Michael Jackson trial: Michael Jackson's lawyers will be allowed to question witnesses about allegations that the boy accusing the singer of molestation once claimed comedian George Lopez stole \$300 from his wallet.

Defense attorneys have tried to raise the matter during Jackson's trial, but have been blocked by objections that Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has upheld.

After reviewing reports about the incident, Melville said Friday he would allow questions about it.

Lopez was one of several comedians who tried to help the boy's family as the boy battled cancer.

Stepfather rape: An Ohio woman whose stepfather was convicted of impregnating her with a syringe was awarded more than \$4.3 million in damages Friday.

A Summit County, Ohio, jury ruled that John Goff, 43, is liable for more than \$3.3 million in compensatory damages and \$750,000 in punitive damages. Goff is serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2002 of rape, sexual battery and child endangerment.

The jury also ordered Akron (Ohio) City Hospital to pay \$224,000 in damages to Shenna Grimm, 22, of Kent.

Grimm "was very happy" with the decision, said her attorney, Bill Whitaker. "She felt it was a vindication of what she's been through."

Nuclear lab management: Members of Congress on Friday again criticized the University of California for its management of Los Alamos National Laboratory, saying the university should bear at least some of the financial burden of a recent lengthy shutdown at the UC-run nuclear weapons facility.

Los Alamos was the main focus of a hearing on security at the nation's nuclear site held Friday by the investigations panel of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. UC has managed the New Mexico lab for the Energy Department for more than six decades.

Farmers' market crash: A judge Friday refused to dismiss manslaughter charges against an 88-year-old man whose car barreled through a farmers' market in Santa



Jackson



West Bank settlements: An injured Palestinian is carried after he was shot with a rubber bullet by Israeli border police. The incident happened when clashes erupted during a protest against the construction of a section of Israel's separation barrier in the outskirts of the West Bank village of Bil'in on Friday. The army is barring Israeli citizens from moving to four West Bank settlements slated for evacuation later this year, military officials said Saturday, following a similar ban on relocating to the Gaza Strip. The plan, scheduled to begin in late July, would uproot roughly 9,000 Jewish settlers from their homes.

Monica, Calif., killing 10 people and injuring 63.

Lawyers for George Russell Weller had argued that he was not grossly negligent, but simply panicked when he stepped on the gas instead of the brake, traveling nearly 1,000 feet through the pedestrian market at up to 60 mph.

He "could do nothing to stop that car," attorney Jim Bianco argued.

Bush cow lawsuit: A freelance writer has asked a court to dismiss his \$5 million lawsuit accusing author Kitty Kelley of plagiarism in her best-selling book about President Bush and his family.

Glynn Wilson said Friday that he decided to drop the suit, filed in November, because he feared that U.S. District Judge U.W. Clemon was about to rule that copyright law didn't cover his story on the Internet about Bush's days in Alabama when he was in the National Guard in the early 1970s.

Such a ruling by Clemon would erode the legal protections that cover Web-based writers, Wilson said.

Mad cow research: The government will spend an additional \$2 million on research into mad cow disease, the Agriculture Department said Friday.

The money will pay for collaboration with laboratories in Great Britain, Italy and Spain.

Pwinds will also go toward a facility being built in Ames, Iowa, for long-term study spanning at least the next decade.

The funding comes on top of the \$4.7 million the Agriculture Department will spend this year to research the disease. President Bush has proposed increasing funding to \$12 million in 2006.

Clinton's pardons: The Bush administration blacked out almost all the information in hundreds of documents before releasing them to a conservative organization looking into President Clinton's controversial pardons four years ago on his last day in office.

The only items not deleted from the material are the names of the person who wrote the document and the person it was sent to. The government accountability group Judicial Watch said Friday that it received the Justice Department documents following a court battle that featured a Republican administration fighting to keep secret documents generated by its Democratic predecessor.

Business

WorldCom scandal: Eleven former board members of WorldCom Inc. have agreed to pay \$20.25 million of their own money to settle a lawsuit by former investors in the company, New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi said Friday.

The deal follows a federal judge's preliminary approval of an order under which JPMorgan Chase & Co. will pay \$2 billion to settle a class-action lawsuit brought by former WorldCom investors.

The settlement with the 11 board members, which a judge must still approve at a hearing expected next week, represents more than the members were paid during their tenures, Hevesi's office said in a statement.

World

Recovering pope: Pope John Paul II's doctors are optimistic about his health, an Italian cardinal who is a top Vatican official was quoted as saying Saturday.

"The Holy Father is hanging in there, hanging in there," Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re told journalists on the sidelines of a ceremony at a Catholic university. The Italian news agency ANSA reported from the southern Italian city of Campobasso.

"The doctors above all are optimistic and this is a beautiful thing, a good sign," Re was quoted as saying.

China mine deaths: A gas explosion in a coal mine in northern China killed 17 miners on Saturday and left 52 trapped, the government said.

The blast occurred shortly after noon in the Xishui Colliery in Shouzhou, a city in Shanxi province, a major coal-mining region, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The blast caused a wall in a neighboring mine to collapse, burying 21 miners, Xinhua said, citing local safety officials. It didn't say how many of the dead were one of the two mines.

Stories and photo from wire services



Pope John Paul II

Iraqi policeman killed, his funeral bombed

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Attackers gunned down a police officer Saturday in Kirkuk, then bombed a funeral procession carrying his corpse, killing three other policemen and wounding two, officials said.

The attackers sprayed automatic-weapons fire from a vehicle, killing the policeman as he made his way to the station house early Saturday, police Capt. Ahmed Shihrani said. Hours later, a roadside bomb hit mourners and security forces transporting the corpse for burial.

"This is a criminal act. The mourners were doing a religious duty. I don't understand how someone could blast a funeral," wailed Alaa Talabani, sister of one of the officers killed in the blast in Kirkuk, an oil-rich city 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Assaults in Baghdad also killed police Commissioner Ahmed Ali Kadim as he traveled to his office in the Doura neighborhood of the capital, said Falah Al-Mohamadawi, an investigator in the precinct.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a series of blasts sent smoke up from the banks of the Tigris River, a few yards outside the heavily fortified Green Zone. Cobra attack helicopters flashed overhead.

A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb, targeting a U.S. military patrol on a highway west of Baghdad, 70 miles west of Baghdad in the restive region known as the Sunni Triangle, Iraqi police Sgt. Laith Ismail said.

The car bomb "detonated prematurely, before it could reach the patrol," the U.S. military said in a statement. No casualties were reported.

Iraqis kept up protests Saturday against a Jordanian man they believed carried out a suicide bombing that killed 125 people in



Relatives mourn over the casket of Iraqi police officer Dashti Talabani on Saturday in Kirkuk, Iraq. Talabani was among three police officers killed when a roadside bomb hit mourners and security forces during the funeral procession for yet another policeman.

Hillah on Feb. 28. "No, no to terrorism," chanted about 200 people in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The Jordanian daily Al-Ghad had reported that the man, Raed Mansour al-Banna, carried out the attack, the single deadliest of the Iraqi insurgency. The paper later issued a correction, however, saying it was not known where in Iraq al-Banna carried out an assault.

Al-Banna's family has denied his involvement in the Hillah attack, saying he was killed while carrying out a suicide bombing in Mosul.

More than 2,000 Shiite demonstrators marched through Baghdad on Friday, raising the Iraqi flag over Jordan's Embassy and demanding an apology from the Jordanian government.

On Wednesday, the leader of the cler-

gy-backed United Iraqi Alliance claimed during Iraq's first National Assembly meeting that neighboring Jordan wasn't doing enough to prevent terrorists from slipping into Iraq.

A number of Iraqi politicians, including interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, have demanded explanations from the Jordanian government.

Jordanian government spokeswoman Asma Khader condemned terrorism and stressed her country's solidarity with the Iraqi people.

"The government condemns strongly any attack against the Iraqi people, in particular the hideous massacre of Hillah which killed scores of innocent people," Khader said. "We have put intensive measures to track those terrorists and there is security coordination with Iraq to protect the borders of both countries."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,519 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,381 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Friday in small arms fire while on patrol in northeast Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Memorial for GI

A memorial service was held Saturday for an American soldier killed by a land mine Wednesday in western Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Shane Koele of Hartley, Iowa, was assigned to the 212th Military Police Company out of Kitzingen, Germany.

Four other soldiers were injured when the armored Humvee they were riding in struck an anti-tank mine.

Two were treated and returned to duty and two others were taken to the military hospital at Bagram Air Base, treated and released.

According to a news release issued by the Coalition Press Information Center in Kabul, the military police unit had only recently arrived in Afghanistan.

On Tuesday night, two vehicles were out conducting a patrol about 12 miles south of the town of Shindand when one of military police vehicles became stuck in the mud.

During recovery attempts Wednesday, the Humvee that Koele was riding in struck a mine.

Koele, 25, is survived by a wife and infant daughter.

From staff reports

Protests mark anniversary of Iraq invasion

BY JANELLE STECKLEIN

The Associated Press

LONDON — Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters marked the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq with demonstrations across Europe on Saturday.

In Britain, police said about 45,000 demonstrators participated in a march from London's Hyde Park past the American Embassy and on to Trafalgar Square.

"We got the Iraqis into this mess, we need to help them out of it," said protester Kit MacLean, 29.

In the southern Turkish city of Adana, home to a Turkish military base used by American forces, protesters laid a black wreath in front of the U.S. Consulate to protest the war, the Anatolia news agency reported.

In Athens, Greece, about 3,000 protesters brought the city center to a standstill for three hours and painted outlines of bodies outside the U.S. Embassy.

The protests were nowhere near as big as those in February 2003, just before the war, when millions marched in cities around the world to urge U.S. President George W. Bush and his allies not to attack Iraq.

With international forces still facing a violent opposition in Iraq, protesters were divided about what to demand from leaders now.

See related story on Page 6



A Greenpeace activist dressed like the angel of death carries a sickle going through a baby doll during an anti-war protest Saturday in Istanbul, Turkey. Thousands of anti-war protesters gathered around the world to mark the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

While some wanted a full troop withdrawal, others argued that that would leave Iraqis in a worse position than before the invasion.

Security was heavy outside the U.S. Embassy in London, where cement barricades and metal fences blocked the building, as they have since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Two former British soldiers placed a cardboard coffin bearing the words "100,000 dead" outside the embassy.

"George Bush, Uncle Sam, Iraq will be your Vietnam," marchers chanted.

In Istanbul, Turkey, an estimated 15,000 people marched in the Kadikoy neighborhood to protest the U.S. presence in Iraq.

"Murderer Bush, get out," read one sign. Two marchers dressed like U.S. soldiers pretended to rough up another, who was dressed as a detainee with a sack on his head, a mimed criticism of prisoner abuse cases.

Demonstrations were also planned in nine Spanish cities, including Madrid, Barcelona and the Basque seaside resort of San Sebastian.

7 insurgents killed in retaliatory slayings

Deaths of al-Zarqawi terrorists said to be revenge for October murder of Iraqi commander

BY JOHN WARD ANDERSON

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — When more than 80 bodies, many of them slain Iraqi police and soldiers, were found last week at four different places in Iraq, a fifth gruesome discovery attracted little notice.

In the violent city of Ramadi, a center of insurgent activity 60 miles west of Baghdad, the bodies of seven men were found neatly lined up in an unfinished house on the western outskirts of town, according to eyewitnesses. Each had been shot in the head or torso. The bodies were secretly buried in a local cemetery, the witnesses said.

Witnesses said they never went to the local police or foreign military forces to report finding the bodies, fearing that they would be accused of complicity in the slayings or that the killers would return to punish them for talking.

"I feared telling the Iraqi army because they would detain me and accuse me of being involved in the killings," said Ali Omar, 32, a motorcycle mechanic who dis-

covered the seven bodies on March 12. Instead, he went to Ramadi Hospital and told a doctor about his discovery, but the doctor refused to get involved. "He told me, 'Why bring problems on yourself? Leave them until they find them.'"

Witnesses also said the event went unreported because the dead men were foreigners, and all were Muslim members of al-Qaida in Iraq, the radical group headed by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi that is at the forefront of the insurgency. Now that details of the slayings have surfaced, al-Zarqawi is vowing revenge.

"My cousins are the ones who killed them," said Jabbar Khalaf Marawi, 42, a former army officer and Communist Party member in Ramadi. Marawi said the slayings were carried out by members of his

Dulaimi clan in retaliation for the Oct. 2 killing of a clan leader — Lt. Col. Sulaiman Ahmed Dulaimi, the Iraqi National Guard commander for Ramadi and Fallujah — by al-Zarqawi's group.

"I feared telling the Iraqi army because they would ... accuse me of being involved in the killings."

Ali Omar

The mechanic who discovered the bodies

Dulaimi was abducted, they said. His body was found two days later.

A statement by al-Zarqawi's group asserted responsibility for the killing, accusing Dulaimi of being an "agent ... who works for the Americans."

Five months later Omar, the motorcycle mechanic, said he found the dead men inside a house. After being rebuffed at the hospital, Omar said he went to the local mosque, where the imam asked to be led to the scene.

Upon arriving, "the preacher immediately said he knew the people. He said they were from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria mujaheddin," Omar said.

Omar Karim, 32, said he was at the Right Mosque when the imam came in "and told us there are some dead bodies belonging to mujaheddin brothers who were killed by agents of the occupiers, and we have to put them in coffins and bury them."

A notice from al-Zarqawi's group was posted on the gate outside the mosque this week announcing the deaths of the men and vowing to behead their killers.

At the Dulaimi family compound this week Sulaiman's father, Hamad Dulaimi, watched as a group of children played in the yard.

"These are the children of Sulaiman, who was killed by those bastards," he said.

Sulaiman's wife joined him: "Now we can talk, because we got revenge."

Attack gives medical unit a baptism by fire

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — At 10 a.m. Wednesday, the newly arrived soldiers were scheduled to rehearse a mass-casualty situation at their medical facility. Practice makes perfect, after all.

But about an hour before the rehearsal was to start, a car bomb exploded near their front gate. The rehearsal was called off, and a real-life drama unfolded. The soldiers worked through the controlled chaos and learned some lessons along the way.

"You never know when it's going to happen or where," said Capt. Al Paul, commander of "Charlie Med," Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, which operates the Teal Medical Facility at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Four Iraqi army soldiers were killed in the blast; three died instantly and the fourth died on one of the clinic's operating tables.

Most of the 55 soldiers who make up Charlie Med and an additional 36 who belong to attached, related units arrived in Iraq in January or February as part of the 42nd Infantry Division's task Force Liberty, which now oversees operations in north-central Iraq.

Their baptism by fire began soon after the 8:43 a.m. blast was heard, and radio crackle began reporting casualties.

"It's not a scheduled event," Paul said. "We had personnel all over. They still have other duties. Some have to pull [security]. We had others who were teaching a class."

Within two hours, 17 Iraqi troops who were wounded were stabilized. Some were evacuated by helicopter to an Air Force Theatre Hospital in nearby Balad. Others were treated and returned to duty.

"We did better than I thought we were going to," said 21-year-old Spc. Penney Gainer of Cary, Ill., one of the first to arrive at Warhorse's front gate, where the victims were being brought.

"It was mine and a lot of people's first time we'd seen a mass-casualty [event] like that," she said.

An hour after the clinic had closed, the soldiers of Charlie Med reviewed what went right and made suggestions on how to improve. They graded their effort a B-plus.

Among the adjustments they said they would make before "next time":

- Post guards to restrict the flow of people into and out of the small clinic as the casualties were being treated;

- Have rooms better marked so stretcher-bearers would know where to carry the wounded;

- Be better prepared to handle additional casualties in case of multiple attacks occurred in rapid succession.

They also discussed ways personnel other than doctors and medics — such as supply specialists and those who maintain the medical equipment — could assist in a more preplanned way.

Afterward, some of the soldiers said that Wednesday's real-life emergency gave them experience and taught lessons they could have never learned in the rehearsals that had been planned.

"When I see a patient on the table and the wounds they have and the blood on my gloves, it always gets me, even if they're not wearing the same uniform," said Spc. Linda Perez, 21, of Coppertown, Texas.

"You can't practice [like that] on a fake patient."

E-mail: Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

Above: Capt. Cheryl Hartley of Nanticoke, Pa., removes a shrapnel from the leg of an Iraqi soldier Wednesday at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq, while other soldiers from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion assist her. Left: Soldiers from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, treat casualties. A mass-casualty rehearsal for recently arrived soldiers was scheduled for Wednesday morning, but it was called off after real life took precedence — a bomb exploding near the front gate of Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Four Iraqi soldiers were killed in the attack.



'Warthogs' prove their mettle in Afghanistan

A-10s provide ground troops intimidating sky support

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — When American soldiers encounter the enemy in this country of seemingly endless mountains and rocky valleys, they can count on one thing their enemies can't: air power.

Much of that power is supplied by a small group of pilots who fly A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, somewhat affectionately known as "Warthogs."

They admittedly are not as elegant or as fast — as their fighter counterparts, such as the F-15 or F-16. But the pilots taking the planes up daily into the skies over Afghanistan say they wouldn't want to be flying anything else.

"I think this aircraft is perfect for what we're doing here right now," said Col. Warren Henderson, commander of the 23rd Fighter Group at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander at Bagram.

And just what is that?

"The basic thing we do here is support the guys on the ground with whatever they need," said Capt. Joe Scholtz, who had just finished a six-hour mission Saturday.

Sometimes, the mere presence of an A-10 overhead can discourage attacks, the Air Force pilots say.

Other times, soldiers on the ground who have called in help from the friends in the skies see their opposition quit fighting and take off.

"When [enemy forces] see the A-10 overhead, they know it's time to disengage and run away," Henderson said.

The planes are touted by some for their ability to destroy enemy tanks, but there are not a lot of armored vehicles for the A-10s to fire on in Afghanistan.

Instead, with the help of a new targeting system that allows pilots to see better at night, the aircraft are carrying out reconnaissance missions, as well as support-



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A-10 "Warthog" pilots and ground crews at Bagram Air Base prepare Saturday for another sortie over Afghanistan. The planes are in the sky around the clock, supporting troops on the ground or carrying out reconnaissance missions.

ing convoys and visits by dignitaries to special events.

And those reconnaissance missions don't always involve potential enemies. On Friday night, A-10s helped locate local residents threatened by floodwaters in western Afghanistan. The pilots then gave the coordinates to Army helicopters that swooped in and rescued hundreds of stranded citizens.

Pilots like Scholtz, Capt. Ron Oliver and Lt. Col. Tim Strasburger are in the air about every other day. But their squadron of planes is in the skies around the clock.

The planes that Scholtz and Strasburger flew Saturday would be ready for another mission in about an hour, they said.

The planes don't complain, Oliver said.

"The more you fly them, the better they fly," he said.

The pilots say they could have a busy spring, with anticolonial forces expected to mount more attacks on forces on the ground.

"I'd rather support a guy on the ground than get an air-to-air kill any day," Strasburger said, acknowledging a difference between A-10 pilots and some of their fighter brethren.

"I guarantee you that at any Army post you go to, the A-10



Lt. Col. Tim Strasburger, an A-10 pilot with the 23rd Fighter Group from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., flies his aircraft about every other day. Behind him are A-10s with the famed "Flying Tigers" nose paintings.

guys drink for free."

Of course, that doesn't hold true in Afghanistan, where U.S. servicemen are not permitted to drink alcohol.

But there might be a few rounds waiting in North Carolina

when the pilots return to Pope and their Fort Bragg neighbors — in this case, members of the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division — end their yearlong tour in Afghanistan.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.estrates.osd.mil

Flying high since World War II

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The Flying Tigers achieved fame by helping the Chinese take on the Japanese in World War II.

Originally an all-volunteer force, the group of pilots kept a supply route open from Burma to China starting in the 1930s.

Seven decades later, the 23rd Fighter Group flies daily near China, supporting ground troops in Afghanistan.

According to Col. Warren Henderson, the group commander, one of the planes' ties to the past are the shark teeth they sport — a rare ornament for fighter aircraft in the Air Force.

But it is not the only one. "Basically, the Flying Tigers have been involved in every conflict we've had since World War II," he said.

About a squadron's worth of A-10s — between 12 and 18 planes — are serving a four-month stint in Afghanistan. They'll be followed by the other half of the group for the following four months.

— Kent Harris

Free ride for U.S. at Kuwaiti gas pumps to end

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — The days when a U.S. Army truck could fill up for free at a gas station in this oil-rich state are coming to an end, Kuwait's energy minister said Thursday that U.S. troops are going to have to start paying for fuel.

In a gift that must have saved the Pentagon a fortune, Kuwait has not charged the U.S. military for fuel since the invasion of

Iraq in March 2003. Tens of thousands of American Humvees, trucks and armored vehicles have rolled through the country and across the desert border into Iraq during the past two years.

"But now after the Iraqi elections ... we have to create a mechanism for payment," the energy minister, Sheikh Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, told reporters.

Kuwait and the United States have agreed in principle on the matter, but the

prices and other aspects are still to be worked out, he said.

The minister did not say when the new system would start and he did not give other details.

There was no reaction from the U.S. Embassy on Thursday.

Kuwait has been a major ally of Washington since a U.S.-led coalition liberated it from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in the 1991 Gulf War.

The country was the launch pad for the war that toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in April 2003, and it is still a logistics station for the U.S. troops serving there.

Some 18,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Kuwait, and thousands more are regularly rotated in and out of Iraq.

Iraq's 275-seat National Assembly, which was elected Jan. 30, was sworn in on Wednesday.

After 2 years, where does Iraq stand?

Analysts: Troop withdraw depends on establishing new government, better economy and Iraqi security

BY RICHARD WHITTE

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — A week after U.S. troops invaded Iraq, as sand storms and attacks by fanatical paramilitaries threatened supply lines and inflicted casualties, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division betrayed misgivings.

"Tell me how this ends," Maj. Gen. David Petraeus challenged a Washington Post reporter embedded with his unit.

Two years after the conflict began on March 19, 2003, no one yet knows the answer. More than 1,500 U.S. service members have died and more than 11,300 have been wounded since the war began.

Nearly 150,000 U.S. troops are still in the country.

"This is probably a decade-long process," judged Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a former Army Ranger.

The "natural lifespan" of most insurgents is roughly eight to 15 years, said Steven Metz, a counterinsurgency expert at the U.S. Army War College. But "I would fully expect within two years for the U.S. [troops] to be almost exclusively in an advisory role," he said.

President Bush and other key officials have set those forecasts.

"Our troops will come home when Iraq is capable of defending herself," the president told a news conference Wednesday.

If opinions vary on when the troops might be withdrawn, most analysts agree that the answer depends on how long it takes to do three things:

- Establish a new government.
- Resuscitate the economy.
- Train sufficient Iraqi security forces to replace U.S. troops.

Here's a look at where things stand on the war's second anniversary:

A new government

"We're making progress in helping Iraq develop a democracy," Bush said in January. Four days later, millions of Iraqis bled insurgent threats and went to the polls to elect a national assembly. Joyously, defiantly, many waved ink-stained fingers in the air to show that they voted.

A poll conducted between Feb. 7 and March 5, found that 61.5 percent of 2,200 Iraqis surveyed in 15 of the country's 18 provinces felt their country was "headed in the right direction," reports the International Republican Institute (www.iri.org/03-15-05-Iraq-Poll.asp).

And others have been celebrating the Iraqis' enthusiasm for democracy ever since the election. But much remains to be

done to reach the goal of a firmly rooted democratic government.

The 275-member Transitional National Assembly convened for the first time in Baghdad on Wednesday. In coming weeks it is to elect a speaker, a prime minister and a three-member presidential council. By Aug. 15, it is to write a constitution, then submit it to a popular referendum by October.

Reviving the economy

Iraq's economy — distorted by 30 years of dictatorship, three wars and 10 years of U.N. economic sanctions — remains devastated and little progress has been made in rebuilding it. Congress voted \$18.4 billion for reconstruction in November 2003, but 16 months later, less than \$4 billion has been spent.

"The insurgency makes it very difficult to accomplish much," noted James Placke, a Mideast expert with Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities had hoped the country's electric grid would be producing 6,000 megawatts daily by last July 1. So far in March, the level was 3,608 megawatts.

U.S. reconstruction officials said at the Pentagon recently that while they have begun hundreds of new projects since the Jan. 30 elections, much of the money has gone for security — fences, guards, armored cars and the like.

Meanwhile, inflation is raging at 31 percent and unemployment is somewhere between 28 and 40 percent, according to the nonpartisan Brookings Institution.

Building security forces

Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said in testimony to a House subcommittee last week that the job of establishing new security forces got off to a slow start because of the "failure" of U.S. officials to anticipate the insurgency.

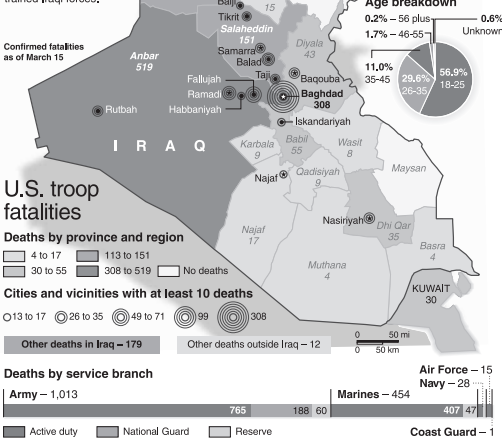
And in a February report on Iraq's security forces, Cordesman wrote that they had been hampered by low morale, infiltration and intimidation by insurgents, cowardice and inexperienced leadership.

But he added that much progress has been made since last summer, when the task of training and equipping most of Iraq's forces was assigned to now Lt. Gen. Petraeus, who won his third star after spending a year in Iraq leading the 101st Airborne.

"It is far too soon to claim success, or any kind of tipping point in the development of Iraqi forces," Cordesman says. "Iraqi officers and officials think their forces 'should be able to secure much of the country by 2006.'"

Iraq: two years later

March 20 marks the two-year anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. More than 1,500 U.S. troops and over 170 international troops have died in the conflict. Far more Iraqis have been killed although no comprehensive figures exist. It can be difficult to differentiate innocent civilians from legitimate combatants, and the dead are often buried quickly without proper accounting by authorities. Some estimates may also include insurgents and coalition-trained Iraqi forces.



SOURCES: Associated Press reporting; Brookings Institution; U.S. Census Bureau

Carrie Osgood • AP

Winners and losers of the war

The Associated Press

WINSTON — The scorecard of winners and losers in the Iraq war is long — and far from certain.

The final tally may not be clear for years, as democracy takes precarious hold and an insurgency shows little sign of disappearing. The legacy of a president, though re-elected, still hangs on what Iraq looks like in a few decades.

For now at least, the winner's circle includes defense contractors and Iraq's ballot boxes, which were used in free elections for the first time in a half-century.

On the other side, the deposed and captured Saddam Hussein awaits trial, while a far worse fate has befallen many others: More than 1,500 U.S. troops and untold thousands of Iraqis are dead.

Winner: Bush, re-elected despite rising troop deaths, a mounting insurgency and no evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

Loser: Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate whose stance(s) on Iraq led Republicans to brand him a flip-flopper.

Winner: Kurds and Shiites, two ethnic groups long oppressed under Saddam, will hold the strings in the new Iraqi government.

Loser: Sunni Arabs, the minority that was dominant under Saddam, will struggle to have a political voice in the new Iraq.

Winner: The ballot box, visited by millions in January to mark the country's first independent elections since opposition won seats in 1954.

Loser: Threats of election day violence, which failed to deter those millions from casting votes.

Winner: Defense and civilian contractors, who have signed deals worth hundreds of billions to outfit U.S. troops and help rebuild Iraq. Halliburton alone has been awarded billions in contracts.

Loser: Iraqi oil fields, the once-presumed financier for reconstruction. Oil profits have not materialized as the fields were found in total disrepair and terrorist sabotage has stymied restarting them.

Winner: Iraqi media, once an organ of Saddam's Baath Party. A plethora of free-wheeling newspapers, radio and television stations emerged in his absence.

Loser: U.S. media, far failing to fully investigate Bush administration claims about Iraqi WMD.

Winner: "Shock and awe," the quick and intense bombing of Iraqi cities that sowed confusion among Iraq's leadership and allowed U.S. troops to quickly advance.

Loser: "Mission Accomplished." Bush's banner backdrop when he announced the end of major combat operations in May 2003. All but 138 U.S. troop deaths have come after his aircraft carrier declaration.

DOD unveils sex assault reporting policy

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department announced a new sexual assault reporting policy on Friday that allows victims to notify authorities of the attack and receive medical treatment without automatically triggering an official military investigation.

The DOD's current policy, which requires an official military investigation to begin as soon as a sexual assault is reported by a servicemember, discourages many victims from coming forward, according to David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Many experts believe sexual assault to be "the most under-reported violent crime in the nation and in the military," Chu told Pentagon reporters.

The new policy "is a big change," Chu said, because victims will now have some time to get medical treatment and to learn about legal options before an official investigation kicks off.

Victims also have more control over the release of his or her personal information, Chu said.

Under restricted reporting, victims will be allowed to discuss de-

Survey: Most academy assaults unreported

By DANIEL DE VISE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One female student in seven attending the nation's military academies last spring said she had been sexually assaulted since becoming a cadet or midshipman, according to a report on the first survey of sexual misconduct at the three campuses released Friday by the Defense Department.

More than half the women studying at the Naval, Air Force and Army academies reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment on campus, according to survey responses. But few of those incidents, and only a third of the assaults, were reported to authorities.

The survey, conducted largely in response to allegations of widespread sexual harassment and assault at the Air Force Academy in 2003, suggests a

prevailing climate at the academies that worries military leaders. Too many students condone off-color jokes and unwanted sexual advances. Too few dare to confront classmates with their transgressions or to report them to anyone else, the survey shows.

In March and April 2004, the Defense Department surveyed 1,906 women, or nearly all of the 1,971 who attend the three academies, along with a representative sample of 3,107 men.

Among the women surveyed last spring across the three academies, 262 students reported 302 incidents of sexual assault, including 94 instances of alleged rape. About 176 cases involved inappropriate touching and fondling. Men reported 55 sexual assaults. The incidents occurred from 1999 to 2004, mostly in dormitory rooms, and the offenders were primarily upperclassmen, according to the report.

tales of their attack in confidence with a designated "sexual assault response coordinator," or SARC, or with a health-care provider, who will then notify the base's SARC instead of law enforcement or the base commander.

Victims already have the right to discuss sexual assaults as "privileged communications" with military chaplains, and the policy does not change that protection.

The SARC then will assign a victim advocate, whose job is to accurately describe all of the victim's rights and options, including a criminal investigation.

The advocate will give victims the sense that "Now I have somebody with me. I'm not in this by myself," Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, commander of the Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, said during Friday's press conference.

Unless the victim gives permission for unrestricted reporting of his or her case, the SARC, medical provider and victim advocate will be forbidden from discussing any oral, written or electronic communications with that person with command authorities or military or civilian law enforcement officials.

The SARC is obligated to report the general outlines of the case to

command authorities within 24 hours of the incident, as long as the report omits any information that "could reasonably lead to personal identification," according to the memorandum.

That requirement will ensure that commanders will have "a more realistic assessment of what's actually happening in their jurisdictions," because they will receive information on events that were previously going unreported, Chu said.

Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz signed the memorandum that created the changes March 16.

But the policy does not become effective for another 90 days, to give time to train all DOD personnel in the new policy, as well as training for commanders, health personnel and other key participants in sexual assault response, Chu said.

"It's going to take quite some time to do this," Chu said.

The new policy complies with a requirement in the 2004 defense budget authorization that contained a clause requiring the Pentagon to address the confidential reporting of sexual assault.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.odm.mil

PREGNANT?

Workwide, we've helped hundreds of military and civilian birthparents & families with ADOPTION.

We listen and help.

NO OBLIGATION

1-800-943-0400

1-717-737-3960

mail@adoption-services.org
www.adoption-services.org



21st TSC troops deploy to Afghanistan

By STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

When their boots hit combat soil, they'll find themselves in an ancient, war-damaged nation in places such as Bagram, Kandahar and Kabul.

And they won't be returning for

a year.

Roughly 170 soldiers under the umbrella of the 21st Theater Support Command loaded onto a commercial jet at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Saturday afternoon and departed for a yearlong Afghanistan deployment.

Their mission: To provide logistical support and force protection for all U.S.-friendly forces in Afghanistan.

Soldiers heading out Saturday represented the 330th Rear Operations Center and the 29th Support Group Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Those elements are part of the 21st TSC, which by July will have deployed about 1,100 troops to Afghanistan for its joint logistics command mission.

While waiting to depart Saturday, several troops said they were excited and ready to go. Troops used the long wait to catnap, fiddle with their iPods and get in a few games on a Sony PlayStation.

Also with the group Saturday were 54 soldiers with the 208th Finance Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall. The unit "brings the cash to the battlefield" to pay soldiers and contractors, Hall said.

"[The 208th soldiers] have certainly earned their place on this team," she said.

All the troops will fly to Kyrgyzstan and from there will depart to several locations in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Renee Walker of the 29th Support Group HHC is keeping an open mind about her yearlong deployment, but is reassured by the ability of her troops in vehicle maintenance.



PHOTOS BY STEVE MRAZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Soldiers with the 21st Theater Support Command load onto a commercial airliner Saturday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to depart for a yearlong Afghanistan deployment. Below: Staff Sgt. Christopher Valdez joins about 170 21st TSC soldiers leaving Saturday.

"It's almost like I'm with family and soldiers at the same time," she said. "I know their capabilities, and they know my capabilities."

After looking into the eyes of his soldiers, Col. Walter J. Sawyer, commander of the 29th Support Group, knew his troops were ready for their Afghanistan deployment.

"What they are getting ready to do is not only important to the guy or gal next to them but to the entire mission," he said.

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mrazs@mail.stripes.odm.mil



Ultimate Gaming Laptop
\$50 Military Discount

widowpc - Alliances accepted
- International and APO shipping
- Veteran need company

www.widowpc.com

AIR TERMINAL OPERATIONS, PASSENGER AND FREIGHT PERSONNEL, AND MHE (60K) MECHANICS FOR KUWAIT

Presently seeking Air Transport Specialists for Kuwait City. Must be knowledgeable in either ATOC functions (GATES), passenger service, or air freight operations. Must meet USAF standards in planning, scheduling, processing and loading cargo. 212 qualifications a plus. Positions require detail-oriented individuals with good verbal communication skills. We also need (MHE) 60k mechanics. U.S. Passport required. Please e-mail naytagvacancy@yahoo.com or fax to (719) 593-8518.

E.O.E./M/F/V/H

LAPTOPS! LAPTOPS! LAPTOPS!

ifINANCEYOU.COM

800-753-2285

Good deed is a 'different kind of hangover'

Writer sells diamond from \$9,800 martini, donates proceeds to the Walter Reed Society



How Wong, a bartender at the Algonquin Hotel for 26 years, served John Ridley his costly martini but nearly threw out the diamond in the drink when clearing the bar.

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — John Ridley doesn't see anything wrong with paying \$9,800 for a martini he didn't particularly like.

"You hear about it, and it's so insane that you have to try it," he said. "Some people jump out of a plane for an adventure; I bought an expensive drink."

But his real explanation is that sometimes writers do crazy things for a good story. Ridley, who penned the big screen hits "Three Kings" and "U-Turn," chronicled his humorous \$490-per-sip experience for National Public Radio last month.

It's the ice, not the drink, that's expensive. At the Algonquin Hotel in New York, each of the special-ordered martinis contains a several-carat diamond submerged in the vodka, and requires the drinker to meet with a jeweler a day in advance to discuss the cut and clarity of the stone.

So far, only two of the Algonquin's diamond-laden drinks have been ordered. The first, purchased in December, was used by a New York man to propose to his girlfriend (He spent \$13,000; she said yes).

Ridley's high-society stunt had a different but still noble cause. He sold his 1.5-carat diamond and donated the proceeds to the Walter Reed Society, which assists relatives of troops under care at the Army hospital, to bring awareness to the charity.

"When it comes to war, most people get in their heads one of two outcomes: Either the troops will come back to their loved ones, or they'll be killed," he said.

"But it gets out of people's minds the number of people injured. No matter how you feel about the war, you have to think of these soldiers."

The NPR commentary, Ridley said, offered a way to get that message to millions of listeners.



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY KATZ/NPR

A close-up view of the 1.5-carat diamond that came with John Ridley's \$9,800 martini.

And it only cost him the price of a small car.

"I didn't tell my wife about it ahead of time," he said, laughing. "I thought once it was all done and they ran the piece, I could explain it to her."

Ridley said she has been very understanding, but has been calling him an idiot.

His drink order was a vesper martini — the drink of choice for James Bond in Ian Fleming's spy novels, before Sean Connery replaced the gin and Lillet with vermouth for his onscreen, unstirred cocktail.

That literary angle, the debonair Bond image and the mystery of a cocktail less-ordered seemed perfect for the adventure Ridley was seeking.

Instead, it was stronger than he expected — good, but not what he would have preferred.

The drink was plunked down on the bar unceremoniously,

ly, just like any other alcoholic offering.

Worse still, the diamond was nearly thrown out by an overzealous waiter clearing the bar.

That's not exactly the experience one would expect for a drink with a \$9,000-plus markup.

"You could tell the presentation was lacking," he said. "And, clearly, there's nothing in it that makes it taste better. But I did get a nervous thrill as it came to me. You keep thinking, 'Is it worth writing out this check for?'"

"The next day, I kept asking myself if that was the most insane thing I've ever done. It's a different kind of hangover."

Still, the donation justified the experience in Ridley's mind. He sold the diamond for \$7,000, got another \$1,000 from the hotel, and earmarked the money for the Operation Iraqi Freedom Family Support Fund.

So in the end, his martini and story ended up costing only \$1,800.

"People think I'm a goofball, but it was a fun thing to do," he said. "I'll be out looking for the next thing soon. But I have a feeling for the rest of the year, it's going to be on the cheap."

E-mail: leo.shane@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Maximum age raised for Army reserves recruits

By JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Battling recruiting and retention shortfalls among its part-time soldiers, the Army is launching a new experimental policy approving the acceptance of not-so-young recruits into the ranks of the Army National Guard and Reserve.

Dubbed a three-year "test," the new policy will bump up the maximum age for new enlistments from 34 years to 39 years, according to an Army announcement.

The policy applies to both men and women joining the military for the first time. The older recruits will be eligible for the same enlistment bonuses and other incentives as younger volunteers, according to the announcement. Those with prior service experience interested in reserves duty remain under existing rules.

"The program will evaluate the feasibility of a permanent change to Army Reserve Component enlistment policy," reads the announcement. The test program begins

3-year 'test' program meant to make up for difficulties in enticing new GI enlistments

immediately and will run through September 30, 2008. Set by law, the maximum age for active-duty recruits will remain at less than 35 years old.

The move comes as reserve recruiters are struggling to convince potential recruits to join even as unit leaders are failing to convince enough troops to stay in uniform beyond initial contracts. Hundreds of thousands of part-time citizen soldiers have found themselves facing involuntary duty in the combat zones, mostly under two-year mobilization orders. Of the more than 412,000 Guard and Reserve troops who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 63,000 have been mobilized twice, according to Pentagon figures.

Nearly half of the forces now in the Middle East and Central Asia came from the reserve components, noted Charles S. Abell,

the Pentagon's top personnel officer, in prepared remarks delivered before lawmakers March 16.

With that as backdrop, he wrote, "This will be a very challenging year for recruiting for the reserve components particularly in the Army National Guard and Reserve," which have born the vast majority of combat deployments among reserve forces. Both the Army Guard and Reserve, he wrote, "are at high risk of falling short of their recruiting objectives."

To help stem the tide, the Army National Guard is increasing its recruiting force by more than 25 percent, adding 1,400 new recruiters. Meanwhile, the Army Reserve is nearly doubling its recruiting ranks with 734 new recruiters.

The Army's new policy should help their efforts.

"Raising the maximum age for non-prior service enlistment expands the recruiting pool, provides motivated individuals an opportunity to serve, and strengthens the readiness of Reserve units," according to the Army statement announcing the new policy.

All applicants must meet the same eligibility standards, to include passing the same physical standards and medical examination.

"Experience has shown that older recruits who can meet the physical demands of military service generally make excellent Soldiers based on their maturity, motivation, loyalty, and patriotism," reads the announcement.

It's too early to say how much the new policy will help recruiters, but officials are hopeful.

"The impact of the measure on meeting enlistment goals has not been forecast, but it is expected to contribute to the Army's efforts to recruit top-quality individuals," according to the announcement.

E-mail: Jon R. Anderson at: jon.anderson@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Save **MORE** on your next car loan

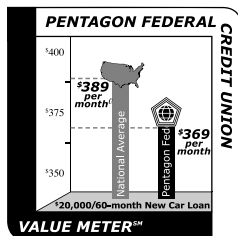


Another Superior Rate

3.9% APR up to 60 months
*when you apply online**

- Pay \$20 less per month than the national average for a \$20,000 loan
- Same rate for new, used, or refinancing
- Pre-approval before you shop
- Instant approval for qualified members

Apply today.



*National average based on 6.25% APR from Bankrate.com as of 2/15/05.

ARMY

AIR FORCE

COAST GUARD

HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS (VFW)

FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABOVE

MANY OTHERS

www.PenFed.org

1-800-247-5626

or call 510-376-7328 from
any on-base, Class 1A DSN line



Pentagon Federal Credit Union
Superior Rates. Proven Service.®

NCUA

Please mention Code 606. All rates and offers are current as of March 1, 2005 and are subject to change. Rate dependent on loan amount, term, and credit score. Pre-approval of 600 credit score, you must qualify for an additional 25,000. Car loan example: \$20,000 loan at 3.9% rate, 60-month payment of approximately \$369 each. *Rate subject to credit application only. Otherwise, the applicable rate is 4.4%.

IN THE STATES

Doctors remove Schiavo's feeding tube

Mother asks Bush to 'save my little girl'

BY MITCH STACY

The Associated Press

The mother of Terri Schiavo appealed Saturday to politicians to take action requiring reconnection of the feeding tube that was removed from the severely brain-damaged woman on court order.

"Please, please, please, save my little girl," Mary Schindler said outside the hospice where her daughter lives.

Schindler called upon President Bush, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, members of Congress and state lawmakers to do whatever they could to prevent Schiavo from dying. Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, who failed Friday in a bid to use congressional subpoena powers to circumvent court orders, said they would work throughout the weekend to find a way to do that.

Lying in her hospice bed with a crowd of protesters gathering outside Friday, Terri Schiavo stopped receiving nourishment through a feeding tube that has kept her alive for more than a decade.

Doctors removed the tube despite an extraordinary, last-minute push by Republicans on Capitol Hill to use the subpoena powers of Congress to keep the brain-damaged woman alive.

Schiavo, 41, could linger one to two weeks, provided no one intercedes and gets the tube reinserted — something that has happened twice before.

But activists kept a vigil for Schiavo, while congressional Republicans and her parents' law-



Rev. Patrick Mohoney, center on ground, leads protesters in prayer Friday outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., where Terri Schiavo is a patient. Schiavo — who has been in a coma-like state for 15 years — was removed from her feeding tube Friday afternoon.

yers promised to go on fighting for her life as she spent her first full day Saturday without food and water.

Three men, led by anti-government activist James Gordon "Bo" Grizz, were arrested on misdemeanor trespassing charges after trying to enter the hospice Saturday with bread and water to give Schiavo. Although she cannot eat or drink, supporters of keeping her alive said the move had symbolic value.

Schiavo's husband said removing the tube was what Terri wanted. He was at her side shortly

after the tube was removed at mid-afternoon.

"It felt like some peace was happening for Terri," Michael Schiavo told NBC's "Today" on Saturday. "And I felt like she was finally going to get what she wants, and to be at peace and be with the Lord."

The removal signals that an end may be near to a decade-long feud between Schiavo's husband and her devoutly Roman Catholic parents, Ben and Mary Schindler. The parents have been trying to oust Michael Schiavo as their daughter's guardian and keep in

place the tube that has kept her alive for more than 15 years.

David Gibbs III, the Schindlers' attorney, said he would work through the weekend to prepare another appeal for a federal appellate court. He also said he hoped lawmakers in Washington or Tallahassee could agree on legislation that would force that the tube be reinserted.

Circuit Judge George Greer — who is presiding over the case — ruled in the husband's favor and rejected the request from House attorneys to delay the removal, which he had previously ordered to take place at 1 p.m. EST.

Case stirs emotions of many

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — She's known for her no-nonsense tone, but when Sen. Nancy Argentiniano took the floor after a week of closed-door negotiations over legislation meant to keep Terri Schiavo alive, she wept.

"I believe keeping someone from getting to heaven is the wrong thing to do," she said Friday, handkerchief in hand, as she explained why she couldn't vote to prolong the brain-damaged woman's life.

It was the peak of an emotional week for Florida lawmakers, who failed to pass legislation that could have prevented Friday's removal of Schiavo's feeding tube, despite pressure from Gov. Jeb Bush and conservative religious groups.

Some legislators accused the state of starving the disabled to death. Others painfully remembered their own decision to withhold food and water from loved ones who were already fading away, and said the government had no place intruding.

State Sen. Daniel Webster pleaded for a last-minute reversal Friday, waving a new \$100 bill at his colleagues, then dropping it on the Senate floor.

"Put it on the floor, smash on it a little bit, now it's all dirty soil and it's all wadded up. You know what? It's still worth \$100," he said. "Some of our lives are like crisp \$100 bills. ... Some lives are soiled and it may not be the life that we'd like to have. But there's life."

Ex-Conn. governor gets year in prison

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — His voice occasionally wavering, former Gov. John G. Rowland stood before a federal judge and told how arrogance had led him to corruption.

"I let my pride get in my way," Rowland said Friday before U.S. District Judge Peter C. Dorsey sentenced him to a year in prison for selling access to his office for personal gain.

Rowland, 47, pleaded guilty in December to a corruption charge, admitting he sold his influence for more than \$100,000 in trips to Las Vegas, vacations in Vermont and Florida, and improvements at his lakeside cottage.

He resigned last summer amid a gathering drive to impeach him.

Once Connecticut's youngest governor and one of the Republican Party's fastest-rising stars, Rowland told Dorsey that he lost sight of his ethical judgment and developed a "sense of entitlement and even arrogance."

Dorsey cited Rowland's public service and his children for handing down the sentence, which was shorter than the 15 months to 21 months in prison



Former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland puts his hand on the shoulder of his wife, Patty, as they make their way through a crowd Friday on the way to U.S. District Court in New Haven, Conn.

called for in the plea agreement Rowland made with prosecutors.

While Rowland tried to downplay the charge against him Friday, prosecutors repeatedly called him corrupt.

Dorsey sentenced Rowland to a year plus one day in prison, four months of home confinement and three years of supervised release. He ordered Rowland to report to prison on April 1 in Ayer, Mass.

Bush praises democratic moves in the Middle East

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — The U.S. military victory against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq gets the credit for "inspiring democratic reformers from Beirut to Tehran," President Bush said Saturday.

"Today, women can vote in Afghanistan, Palestinians are breaking the old patterns of violence, and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese are rising up to demand their sovereignty and democratic rights," Bush said in a weekly radio address that marked the two-year anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

With his primary rationale for the war — Saddam's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction — discredited, Bush has turned to the argument that the war in Iraq was justified because it freed the Iraqi people from a bru-

tal dictator and now gives the Middle East a model for democracy.

Bush said, "The Iraqi people are taking charge of their own destiny," citing the country's first free and fair elections in its modern history. This week's first meeting of the Transitional National Assembly and the upcoming drafting of a constitution for a "free and democratic Iraq."

Against that progress, insurgents have carried on a relentless campaign of suicide bombings, kidnappings, and other heinous crimes while rampant crime, power outages, unemployment over 50 percent and a fuel crisis in one of the world's prime oil-exporting countries continue.

Some have questioned Bush's repeated claims that recent democratic developments in several global hotspots are due to both the Iraq war and his second-term drive to push for reforms.

The Yates family is shown in this November 2000 photo. In back are Andrea Yates, pregnant with daughter Mary, and her husband, Russell. In front are, from left, John, Luke, Paul and Noah. Russell Yates finalized his divorce Thursday, three years after Andrea Yates was sentenced to life in prison.



Yates divorce final

Texas woman convicted three years ago of drowning her five children in bathtub

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Russell Yates finalized his divorce Thursday from his wife, Andrea, three years after she was sentenced to life in prison for drowning their children.

Under the decree, Andrea Yates will get her gliding rocking chair — generally used for nursing babies — and the right to be buried near the five children. Russell Yates also will give her \$7,000 and a portion of his retirement benefits from his employment at NASA.

The house where the children were drowned in the bathtub in 2001 has been sold.

Andrea Yates, 40, was sentenced to life in prison for three of the 2001 drowning deaths, but the capital murder convictions were overturned in January. A panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston sided with her lawyers, who contended false testimony from a prosecution expert witness influenced the jury. Andrea Yates claimed she was insane at the time of the drownings.

Prosecutors have asked the full appeals court to reconsider.

"She has come to terms with it and knows Rusty needs to go on with his life," Andrea Yates' attorney, John O'Sullivan, said.

"She just wants to get it behind her. She doesn't like it. She wishes it didn't happen."

The divorce also was tough for Russell Yates, his attorney David Salinsky said. Russell Yates still cares for Andrea and continues to visit her in prison, he said.

The couple married on April 17, 1993, and stopped living together on June 20, 2001, the day the children were killed, according to the divorce petition.

The family had seven cemetery plots — five for the children and one each for Russell and Andrea Yates. Salinsky said it's unclear whether Russell Yates will be buried next to Andrea.

"Nobody ever knows what the future is going to hold," he said.

Andrea Yates remains at a psychiatric prison in East Texas, where she works in the commissary three days a week and performs general housekeeping duties, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Mike Viesca.

Police say remains of missing Fla. girl found

Suspect confesses to kidnapping and killing 9-year-old

BY MIKE BRANOM
The Associated Press

HOMOSASSA, Fla. — The body of missing 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford was found early Saturday, a day after officials said a registered sex offender confessed to kidnapping and killing the girl. Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey said Jessica's body was found during an overnight search in a densely wooded area, only about 150 yards away from the home the girl shared with her father and grandparents.



Jessica Lunsford

Jessica's father, Mark Lunsford, visited the search scene shortly after sunrise and gave a brief, emotional statement to reporters.

"Every one heard me say, time after time, that she would be home," Lunsford said. His eyes hidden behind dark, black sunglasses, "She's home now."

John Evander Couey, 46, confessed to kidnapping and killing Jessica after taking a lie-detector test Friday in Georgia, Dawsey said. She disappeared from her bedroom more than three weeks ago.

"We're en route to bring him back home," said Dawsey, who added that he wants Couey to face the death penalty.

"This guy is not a quality person, by any means... He's truly a piece of trash," the sheriff said.

Dawsey said that four other people were charged in connection with the case, three of them with obstruction for failing to notify po-



Mark Lunsford, the father of Jessica Lunsford, embraces Jessica's cousin Kristy Kirkland prior to addressing the media near his home in Homosassa, Fla., on Saturday. Authorities say they have found the body of Jessica and caught the suspect in her slaying.

lice when Couey allegedly told them he had committed a crime. A fourth, the sheriff said, was picked up for questioning in the case but was charged only with failure to pay child support in an unrelated matter.

Dawsey called the four "a bunch of druggies" and said he would urge prosecutors not to allow them to plea-bargain for reduced sentences.

Mark Lunsford has said the family did not know Couey, who was arrested Thursday.

At a news conference late Friday from Ohio, the girl's mother, Angela Bryant, repeatedly made

the same vow: Couey, she said, "will pay."

Detectives grew interested in Couey while interviewing all registered sex offenders in the area. They tried to contact Couey at his home in Homosassa five days after Jessica disappeared and discovered he no longer lived there.

Authorities said Couey left Florida on or about March 4 after telling relatives that police would be looking for him. He was arrested in Augusta, Ga., on a probation violation for failing to notify officials that he was moving, a requirement for sex offenders. He was awaiting extradition to Florida on Friday.

Fiancee: Letterman suspect falsely accused

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The fiancée of a Montana man charged with plotting to kidnap David Letterman's son said her husband-to-be is being falsely accused by a childhood friend he had a falling out with.

Kelly A. Frank was arrested Monday after the estranged friend told authorities that Frank had confided a plan to kidnap 16-month-old Harry Joseph Letterman and his nanny for \$5 million in ransom.

Frank, 43, and the informant not only had been friends since they were 10 but also had worked together at the talk-show host's ranch, west of Choteau, Mont., said the fiancée, Laurie Johnson.

In interviews published Saturday, Johnson told the New York Daily News and New York Post that the estranged friend has a "personal vendetta"

against Frank because of a fight they had at work, and has been trying to incriminate him ever since.

Johnson said the informant twisted an offhand remark Frank had made about Letterman increasing security at the ranch into a threat against the child.

"He has always had great respect for Letterman," Johnson, 40, told the Daily News. "He felt privileged to be able to go up there and work for him."

Frank is charged with felony solicitation, felony theft for allegedly overcharging Letterman for painting work and misdemeanor obstruction for allegedly lying to an FBI agent who first questioned him about the plot.

He is being held on \$600,000 bail and is scheduled to make his next court appearance Tuesday.

Frank previously pleaded guilty to stalking and intimidating a woman who alleges he also kidnapped and raped her.

JOHN & CHRISTIAN
DIAMOND & GEMSTONE

10% OFF
ANY PURCHASE
OF \$100 OR MORE
ON ANY DAY
OF THE WEEK

Anniversary Date
IN ROMAN NUMERALS
25-29 OR 30 IN ROMAN
ANY DAY OF THE WEEK

Children's
Jewelry & Accessories

100 SOUTH MAIN STREET • 100 SOUTH MAIN
TEL: 562-222-2222 • 562-222-2222

MILITARY RINGS SALE
ARMY • NAVY • COAST GUARD • MARINES

Balfour

We Won't Be Understood!
100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Design Your Ring with Infinite Options

shop
DanielsJewelers.com

Daniels

Top 'Movie Stars' list gets mixed reviews

Premiere's ranking of the '50 Greatest' gives nods to current and classic actors

BY TAMER EL-GHORBASHY
AND BILL HUTCHINSON

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A magazine's list of the "50 Greatest Movie Stars" is getting more jeers than cheers from film lovers flabbergasted that Tom Cruise outranks John Wayne and Marlon Brando.

Premiere magazine's editors spent two years painstakingly crafting the royal roster that puts Cruise at No. 3, behind only Marilyn Monroe and list-topper Cary Grant.

Another head-scratcher was Julia Roberts, who cracked the top 10 at No. 7, while four-time Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn came in No. 14.

"Julia Roberts shouldn't even make the list yet," said Mark Groblewski, 51, a construction director from Long Island. "You have to put in a lot of work to get there."

Jessica Faurie, 25, of Manhattan said Cruise doesn't rank on her personal list of top-shelf film stars.

There are many actors who are better



Paul Newman

than him," said the medical secretary.

But Premiere senior editor Glenn Kenny said Cruise earned his spot on the list, one notch above John Wayne, because he's "the biggest contemporary movie star in the last 20 years." Cruise is so big with the magazine's editors that they put his picture on the cover of the April issue.

Roberts, who won an Academy Award in

Premiere's list of '50 Greatest Movie Stars'

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cary Grant | 18. Audrey Hepburn | 34. Rita Hayworth |
| 2. Marilyn Monroe | 19. Spencer Tracy | 35. Harrison Ford |
| 3. Tom Cruise | 20. Sidney Poitier | 36. Sean Connery |
| 4. John Wayne | 21. Clark Gable | 37. Al Pacino |
| 5. Ingrid Bergman | 22. Judy Garland | 38. Robert De Niro |
| 6. Paul Newman | 23. Fred Astaire | 39. Denzel Washington |
| 7. Julia Roberts | 24. Doris Day | 40. Elizabeth Taylor |
| 8. Garbo | 25. Bette Davis | 41. Peter Sellers |
| 9. James Stewart | 26. Errol Flynn | 42. Gary Cooper |
| 10. Henry Fonda | 27. Gregory Peck | 43. Clint Eastwood |
| 11. James Cagney | 28. Tom Hanks | 44. Will Smith |
| 12. Grace Kelly | 29. Warren Beatty | 45. Jack Lemmon |
| 13. Humphrey Bogart | 30. James Dean | 46. Meryl Streep |
| 14. Katharine Hepburn | 31. Steve McQueen | 47. Johnny Depp |
| 15. Marlon Brando | 32. Jane Fonda | 48. Nicole Kidman |
| 16. Jack Nicholson | 33. Shirley Temple | 49. Russell Crowe |
| 17. Robert Redford | | 50. Brad Pitt |

—KRT

2000 for her portrayal of crusading environmentalist Eric Brockovich, earned her high spot on the list for being Hollywood's highest-paid go-to actress.

"Another reason why she's so appealing is because she often identifies — onscreen, anyway — with the working class," reports Premiere.

Part of the reasoning for picking actors like Roberts, Cruise, Will Smith (No. 44), Nicole Kidman (48), Russell Crowe (49) and Brad Pitt (50) was their "staying power."

"We weren't going to do this list based on a whole nostalgic trip," said Kenny. "To just do a list where you're going to ignore contemporary movie stars makes no sense."

Twenty-six of the 50 greatest are dead,

including Ingrid Bergman (5), Greta Garbo (8), James Stewart (9) and Henry Fonda (10).

Besides Cruise and Roberts, Paul Newman (6) is the only other living actor to make the top 10.

Al Pacino and Robert De Niro finished 37th and 38th, while Denzel Washington was 39th.

"I think that if you get too hung up on rankings, you're going to miss the enjoyment of the list," said Kenny.

Beverly Dawkins, 56, a receptionist from Queens, thought

the list was spot-on. "I love movies, especially old movies," Dawkins said. "I think it's an excellent list. You have all my favorites — but not in the right order."



George Lucas speaks Thursday at a news conference on digital and 3D film at ShoWest in Las Vegas.

Lucas offers peek at final 'Star Wars'

BY DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Two decades ago, George Lucas pulled off the mask to reveal the face of one of cinema's greatest bad guys. Now, he's about to slip the mask back on.

Lucas offered a preview Thursday of his final "Star Wars" chapter, which spells out the last dark steps the once goateyed young Anakin Skywalker takes to become the villain Darth Vader.

"It's not like the old 'Star Wars,'" Lucas told theater owners at the ShoWest convention. "This one's a little bit more emotional. We like to describe it as 'Titanic' in space. It's a tear-jerker."

Opening May 19, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith" brings full circle the mammoth sci-fi saga. Lucas began in 1977 with the original "Star Wars," which shattered box-office records and remains one of the top-grossing movies ever.

Reaction was mixed on "Episode I — The Phantom Menace" and "Episode II — Attack of the Clones," many fans grousing that the first one was too much a kiddie flick and the second one tooappy a love story. Calling the latest movie a Faustian tragedy, Lucas said he is unconcerned about whether "Re-

venge of the Sith" draws more barbs from "Star Wars" fans.

"I feel that I've made the movie the best I can and it turned out the way I wanted it to be, so I'm happy," Lucas, 60, told The Associated Press in an interview. "I never try to anticipate what the world's going to think or even worry about whether they're going to like it or not."

The film immediately launches into a space battle elaborate even by "Star Wars" standards as Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) and his Jedi knight master, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), lead a mission to rescue the kidnapped Palpatine, chancellor of the Republic.

The trailer sets up the rest of the scenario, with the suspicious Jedi council assigning Anakin to spy on Palpatine after his rescue, while the chancellor — the future evil Emperor of the original trilogy — plots to seduce the young knight to the dark side of the Force.

The trailer screened Thursday showed what fans have been waiting for since Lucas began the story of Anakin's journey from good toward evil in "The Phantom Menace" and "Attack of the Clones."

"Obviously, fans would love to see a movie about Darth Vader running around killing people. I'm not telling that story, and I'm not interested in that."

George Lucas

Namely, Anakin in the guise of Vader: Black cloak, mask and helmet, an outfit rigged with life-support devices for Skywalker, whose battle wounds have left him part flesh, part machine.

Lucas knows many fans wanted the prequel trilogy to introduce Vader early on rather than trace Anakin's downfall from nice little boy to bratty teen to dark knight of the galaxy. "Revenge of the Sith" presents Anakin in Vader's black get-up only at the very end of the movie, Lucas said.

"Obviously, fans would love to see a movie about Darth Vader running around killing people," Lucas said. "I'm not telling that story, and I'm not interested in that. That's not what the movie is."

IN THE WORLD

Rice tours military bunker during her South Korea visit

BY ANNE GEARAN
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — From inside a mountainside bunker, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice saw firsthand Saturday what a war with North Korea might look like.

Rice became the most senior American official to tour a command center for U.S. and South Korean troops that would be the battle headquarters in the event of fighting with the communist North.

"I know that you face a close-in threat every day," Rice told troops at Command Post Tango, or Theater Air Naval Ground Operations.

Rice's visit coincided with a twice-yearly war exercise involving thousands of American and South Korean soldiers. When Rice got a look at the command center, it also was the first time that reporters and cameras were allowed into the bunker south of Seoul.

North Korea denounced the ex-

ercises as a rehearsal for a U.S.-led pre-emptive attack.

"The Republic of Korea, a great democracy now, faces a threat across the divide of a state that is not democratic, that is not free, and that does not have the best interests of its people at heart," Rice said.

Rice's trip to Asia is intended partly to push North Korea to resume nuclear disarmament talks. She repeatedly has assured North Korea that the United States has no intention of invading.

Still, more than 32,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, with more at the ready nearby. They are testament to the tension and suspicion between North and South Korea five decades after active hostilities ended in the Korean War.

"In parts of the world, the Cold War has ended and we've been able to [produce] a continent like Europe, that is now whole and free," Rice told commanders and troops. "But of course, divisions remain here in Korea."

In a large underground room



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shakes hands with U.S. Forces Korea Deputy Commander Gen. Kim Jang-soo, as USFK Commander Gen. Leon J. LaPorte looks on Saturday at the command control center for the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces at Seongnam.

that resembled a college lecture hall, Rice received a classified briefing on war preparations. In place of a blackboard, the room has a huge computer-driven display screen.

When reporters were brought into the room, the lighted screen showed only the State Department seal where maps or detailed planning data would be.

For the military exercise, about 17,000 U.S.-based troops were joining 6,000 soldiers stationed in

South Korea. North Korea condemned the exercise was "a maneuver for a nuclear war against the North."

"The U.S. imperialists unleash a new war, they will pay a high price," the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried by its official news agency, KCNA.

North Korea's nuclear capability was expected to be a major topic of Rice's talks with South Korean leaders on Sunday and Chinese officials on Monday.

Lebanon leader to skip summit

BY JOSEPH PANOSSIAN
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's pro-Syria president said Saturday that he will not attend an Arab summit due to political turmoil in his country as investigators searched for clues to a car bomb that rocked a largely Christian neighborhood in Beirut, injuring nine people.

President Emile Lahoud did not elaborate on his decision not to participate in Monday's summit in Algeria, but it came as Syria withdraws troops from Lebanon after facing heavy pressure from the United States and fellow Arab countries to end a three-decade presence.

The attack devastated an eight-story apartment building in the largely Christian New Jdeideh neighborhood shortly after midnight Saturday and sent panicked residents in their pajamas into the street.

Lahoud, a close Syrian ally, made no mention of the attack, saying only in a statement that Lebanon was experiencing "exceptional circumstances" that required "immediate and direct dialogue" between opposition and pro-government groups.

He also offered to host immediate talks between Lebanon's various political factions amid negotiations over the formation of a new government.

Opposition legislator Fares Seid dismissed the invite, saying: "It's too late. This subject is closed."

The violence raised concerns among some Lebanese that pro-Damascus elements might resort to violence to show, in their view, the need for a continued presence by Syria in Lebanon. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese have demonstrated for and against Syria since the Feb. 14 slaying of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The anti-Syrian protests have featured large numbers of Maronite Christians.

Police closed all entrances leading to the blast site and blocked onlookers from nearing the devastated building. After sunrise, residents began clearing debris and inspecting their damaged shops and homes.

The Lebanese military also announced stricter measures against any security violators. "The law will not allow that freedom of expression be abused in order to harm security and stability," it said in a statement.

Security officials said on condition of anonymity the blast was caused by a time-bomb placed underneath a car belonging to a Lebanese-Armenian resident of the damaged building. It was unclear where the car owner was or why the bomb was placed under his vehicle.

Putin visits Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian leader Viktor Yushchenko on Saturday emphasized the importance of a good relationship between their neighboring states at the start of the Russian leader's first visit to Ukraine since a pro-Western government swept to power.

Yushchenko greeted Putin in the capital's famous House of Chimeras, a garqyle-becked building across from the presidential administration.

Yushchenko's office was billing the trip — scheduled to last only a few hours — as a chance for "eye-to-eye" talks.

Dresden flooding

BERLIN — German authorities issued a flood alert Saturday for Dresden, where melting snow was swelling the Elbe River three years after its waters devastated the city's cultural treasures.

Waters were expected to reach a flood plain below the old town's stone ramparts as early as Saturday and the city fire department was put on round-the-clock alert, Saxony state officials said.

Dresden residents were warned that roads and basements in parts of the city would flood Sunday.

From The Associated Press

Mandela hosts star-studded AIDS benefit in South Africa

BY CLARE NULLIS
The Associated Press



South African singer Kabelo performs on stage during the Nelson Mandela Foundation "46664" HIV/AIDS campaign benefit concert Saturday in George, South Africa.

GEORGE, South Africa — Former President Nelson Mandela on Saturday hosted his second star-studded concert to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic that has struck millions across Africa.

Actor Will Smith and musicians Annie Lennox, India Arie and Brian May were among a host of local and international celebrities featured on the lineup for the "46664" concert — named after Mandela's prison number while he was incarcerated for 27 years under apartheid.

This year's event highlighted the plight of women and girls, who are six times more likely to be infected with the AIDS virus than men in South Africa.

"Women don't only bear the burden of HIV infection, they also bear the burden of HIV care," Mandela said in a statement released on the eve of the concert. "Grandmothers are looking after children. Women are caring for their dying husbands. Children are looking after dying parents and surviving siblings."

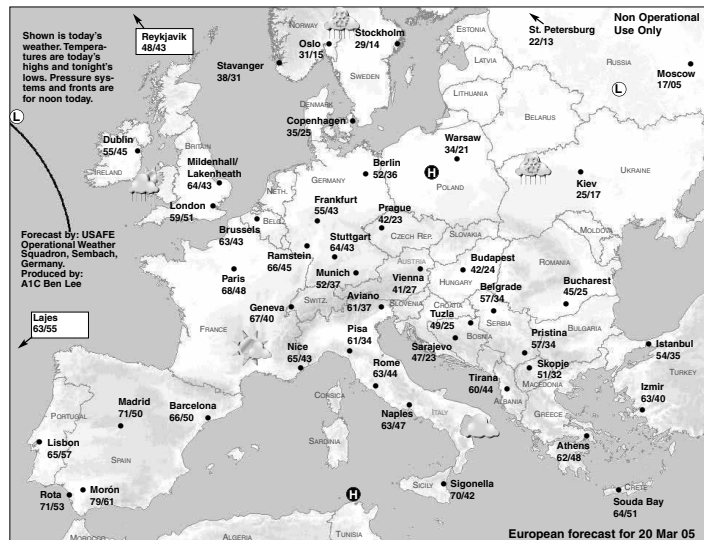
An estimated 5.3 million of South Africa's 45 million people live with HIV, more than in any other country. Between 600 and 1,000 die every day from AIDS related diseases, according to U.N. figures.

The toll far outstrips the 21,000 South Africans killed in political violence during four decades of racist white rule.

Mandela, who lost his eldest son to the disease earlier this year, said he hopes the event will help raise funds for AIDS charities.

"We are facing a tragedy of unprecedented proportions," Mandela said in the statement. "Our response, therefore, has to be unprecedented."

The event was staged at one of the world's most luxurious golf estates — far removed from the poverty surrounding many victims afflicted with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.



KEY: Sunny Partly cloudy Mostly cloudy Cloudy Showers Storms Rain Rain/snow Snow Cold front Warm front Trough Occluded Saturated Low High

AFRICA

Capetown	HI	LO	Mogadishu	HI	LO
Dakar	79	62	Nairobi	82	64
Freeport	89	77	Rabat	72	45
Kinshasa	88	73	Tripoli	72	55

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI	LO	Manila	HI	LO
Bahrain	50	41	Mexico City	86	79
Beijing	57	38	Montreal	35	19
Bombay	82	61	Riyadh	35	19
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75
Buenos Aires	64	57	Sao Paulo	83	75

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

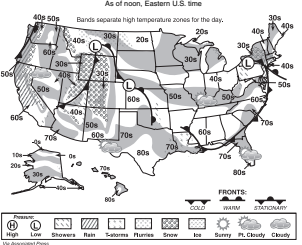
Alaska	HI	LO	Alaska	HI	LO
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50
Alaska	77	50	Alaska	77	50

Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38
Hamburg	48	35	Nashville	61	38

MIDEAST

Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40
Mazar-e-Sharif	59/39	Kabul	60/40

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with dense morning fog. Highs in the 50s to mid 60s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Sunday lows in the mid 40s to low 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with morning fog and isolated showers of rain and snow. Highs in the upper 40s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 60s. Sunday lows in the 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the low to mid 50s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s to low 40s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the southeast. Highs in the low 50s to mid 60s. Sunday lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Hungary: Sunny. Highs in the low 40s. Sunday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the low 60s to low 70s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rain early, becoming mostly cloudy in the evening. Highs in the low to upper 50s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s.

Norway: Morning snow showers give way to partly cloudy skies in the evening. Highs in the low to upper 30s. Sunday lows in the mid 20s to low 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the evening. Highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s. Sunday lows in the low 50s to low 60s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers late. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Sunday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil> <http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	Today 0607	Tomorrow 0606
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0628	0626
Sunset (Baghdad)	1815	1815
Sunset (Frankfurt)	1839	1841

New moon 18 Apr 05 First 20 Mar 05 Full moon 18 Apr 05 Last 8 Apr 05

Scheduled to appear on **ET** or **PGS**

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Homework Newspaper

At least 24 killed by Afghanistan flooding

BY AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 24 people died and hundreds more were left homeless Saturday after heavy rain pushed Afghanistan's longest river over its banks in a former Taliban stronghold and caused severe flooding across the country.

Officials in western Farah prov-

ince reported that at least 21 people died because of the floods, and three more perished in neighboring Ghor, Interior Ministry spokesman Latfullah Mashal said.

"Many families have been forced from their homes into makeshift camps," Mashal said. "We fear the death toll could rise."

On Friday, the Helmand River

crusted its banks and flooded several villages near Deh Rawood, 250 miles southwest of Kabul, in central Uruzgan province, Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan said.

Some 700 houses were destroyed, Khan said by satellite telephone from Deh Rawood, where he was supervising rescue operations.

He said dozens of people, including 12 Kuchi nomads who

take their livestock up the Helmand valley each spring, were missing.

The U.S. military said it rescued more than 200 people from rising flood waters in the area on Friday.

Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters lifted the villagers from an island surrounded by rising floodwaters and ferried them to safety, the military said in a statement.

Authorities are braced for serious flooding as rainstorms and warmer weather melt deep snow from one of the harshest winters in years.

The weather is good news for Afghan farmers impoverished by years of drought.

However, more than 300 people have reportedly died from exposure and cold-related illnesses such as pneumonia and whooping cough this year.

It was unclear whether the wet weather also caused a landslide that an official said killed five men prospecting for gemstones in northern Afghanistan.

The five died on Thursday as they were searching for blue lapis lazuli gems near Keranmunjan, 140 miles northeast of Kabul, said Shamsul Rahman Shams, deputy governor of Badkhashan province.

Large tracts of farmland were also reportedly damaged in the Shamali Plain, just north of Kabul, and in the northern province of Jowzjan.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH A GREAT DEAL.

VOLVO
for life



BUY YOUR NEW EUROPEAN CAR THE SMART WAY
— AND ENJOY ALL THE SAVINGS AND UNIQUE
REWARDS OF VOLVO'S MILITARY SALES PROGRAM.
FOR A VERY SPECIAL OFFER ON YOUR FAVORITE
VOLVO (SUCH AS THE INNOVATIVE NEW VOLVO S40),
SEE YOUR NEAREST SALES AGENT NOW OR VISIT
WWW.VOLVOCARS.COM/MILITARYSALES

- ★ SPECIAL FACTORY PRICING.
- ★ PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH ALL FORMALITIES.
- ★ FOUR-YEAR WARRANTY ALSO OUTSIDE THE U.S.
- ★ U.S. SPECIFICATIONS.
- ★ NO IMPORT DUTY WITH PCS ORDERS, FOR US MILITARY PERSONNEL TAKING DELIVERY OVERSEAS.
- ★ FREE HOME SHIPMENT, MARINE INSURANCE AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE INCLUDED.
- ★ OPTION OF VIP FACTORY DELIVERY — AND MORE.

VOLVO CARS MILITARY SALES. IT'S A GREAT DEAL.

Saudi man let go after no terror links found

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A Saudi Arabian man, detained for suspected al-Qaida links after arriving at Manila's airport, was turned over to the Saudi ambassador on Friday after investigators failed to find any evidence against him, Philippine immigration officials said.

The man, identified by the officials as Saudi Arabian national Abdullah Nassar al-Arifi, 34, appears on an FBI list of terror suspects, the officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

He was detained shortly after arriving on a Philippine Airlines flight from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on Wednesday, the officials said.

"His name and date of birth jived with the list," Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez told DZMM radio.

The officials said earlier the man may have links to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, as well as the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia.

But an investigation — which the officials said included the FBI — failed to link him to terrorism, and al-Arifi was turned over to the Saudi ambassador on Friday, said an immigration intelligence official who declined to be identified.

The official said al-Arifi would still be deported to Saudi Arabia because his name was on the U.S. list.

Alligator kills man

FL LAKELAND — A man found dead in a pond was the victim of a nearly nine-foot alligator that was captured and killed, the medical examiner's office said.

Officials did not know what Don Owen, 56, a truck driver from Bartow, was doing at the pond about a dozen miles from his home. He had been missing several days and was last seen at a convenience store.

His remains were found by several men fishing in Six Pound Pond. An autopsy determined he had been killed by the eight-foot, nine-inch alligator, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said.

Trappers caught the alligator Monday. Owen's forearm was found in its stomach.

Crossword champ

CT STAMFORD — The bookish world of crossword puzzle aficionados has a fresh-faced new champion.

College student Tyler Hinman, 20, beat out more than 450 competitors from across the country to win top honors at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

He's now the youngest champion in the 28-year-history of the tournament. He said he will spend his \$4,000 prize money on tuition.

"I can't even celebrate," said Hinman, wearing jeans, a T-shirt, and a baseball cap marked with the insignia of his fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. "I'm not old enough to go to a pub and drink myself stupid."

It was a close win: a 46-year-old engineer named Al Sanders from Fort Collins, Colo., finished the same puzzle first, but missed the answer "Zolazepam" for the clue "stark and richly detailed, as writing."

Freeway shooting kills 3

TX DALLAS — A man squeezed through the sunroof of a Jaguar and opened fire with an automatic assault rifle on another moving vehicle, killing three men and critically wounding a fourth, police said.

Authorities were searching for the gunman and two others, including a woman, who may have been riding in the light-colored, late model Jaguar with fancy wheels, according to Dallas and University Park police.

A police officer waiting at a traffic light at the intersection witnessed the shootings and stopped to help when the second car crashed, Dallas police Sgt. Gil Cerda said. Police policy prohibited the officer from pursuing the fleeing vehicle because he already had a prisoner from an unrelated case in his back seat.

Cow-smuggling case

NY SYRACUSE — Federal authorities have charged two men with smuggling banned Canadian cattle into the United States.

A federal grand jury indictment against Louis R. Jacobs, of St. Sny, Quebec, and Andrew J. Derouche, of Fort Covington, of bringing six cows into the United States last Aug. 25, U.S. Attorney Glenn

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Suddaby said.

The importation of cattle and cattle products has been prohibited by federal regulation since May 2003 because of concern over bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly called mad cow disease. The federal government took the action after the discovery of a single infected cow from a commercial farm in northern Alberta, Canada.

Historic building burns

AR LITTLE ROCK — A fire destroyed the former headquarters of a major black social organization, which was to be remodeled into a museum on African-American life.

The fire began at about 2 a.m., eventually leading to the three-story building's collapse. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Some nearby buildings had minor damage.

Built in 1911, the building was the national headquarters for the Mosaic Templars, which had chapters in 26 states as well as six foreign countries.

Abortion law on hold

MI LANSING — A new state law that bans a procedure critics call partial-birth abortion will not take effect this month so that the state has more time to respond to a federal lawsuit challenging the statute.

Under an agreement reached by Attorney General Mike Cox and



I'll just watch

Jackson Crandall, 2, watches through a living room window as his dad, Matt, removes snow from the sidewalk in front of their house in Sioux Falls, S.D.

three groups that filed suit, the abortion law was put on hold until June 15. It was scheduled to take effect March 30.

U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood approved the temporary restraining order Monday.

Cox spokeswoman Allison Pierce said the state needed more time to respond to the suit, which was filed March 1.

Suspect naps in car

MA QUINCY — It's never good to fall asleep on the job, but when you're a robber, the consequences can be severe.

Quincy police arrived at a CVS pharmacy early in the morning to find Steven Jakaitis, 42, sleeping in his idling car with a nylon stocking over his head and a cap pistol in his pocket.

By his side was a note that read: "I have a Gun DO NOT Press any Alarms or let Customers [sic] know Empty the All the register."

A customer called police after seeing Jakaitis, who was also wearing a black wig and a scarf. On the back seat of his car, officers found a plastic bag containing 36 unused hypodermic needles. He spoke incoherently after the officers woke him, Capt. Anthony DiBona said.

He never actually went into the store, police said.

Inmate powwows get OK

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska's American Indian inmates can have powwows, meet with medicine men and use a tobacco substitute during religious ceremonies under a federal court settlement.

The settlement, reached between the inmates and prison state officials last year, was approved by U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom.

The settlement grew from a complaint filed on behalf of some 200 American Indian inmates by Richard T. Walker, an Indian sentenced to life in prison in 1966 for murder.

Under the agreement, American Indian inmates can have two powwows a year and use traditional foods such as fry bread, corn and "berry dish" in their ceremonies.

Moms ordered to school

WV MOUNDSVILLE — A magistrate has ordered two mothers to attend school with their children who had too many unexcused absences.

Jennifer LaShare's 15-year-old son has missed school 34 days without an excuse. The boy was defiant in a hearing Thursday, saying he was going to leave school for good when he turns 16 in May.

April Wood's 13-year-old son also has had 34 unexcused absences.

Wood said she has no transportation and her son has been kicked off the bus for smoking a cigarette. "I'm not going to walk on the highway with my son" to school, Wood said.

Anderson also ordered Wood to attend school. Marshall County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney C. Richard Wilson said the school system might be asked to allow the boy to ride the bus with his mother.



Getting some exercise

Jenna Moodie, 9 from Weston, Fla., jumps over bars with her dog, Whoopee, an Irish water spaniel, in the large-dog section of a new dog park in Manatee Park in Sunrise, Fla.



Battling the blaze

A firefighter looks into the sky at billowing smoke as he and others battle a blaze at a recycling business in Vinton, Texas.



A long way down

Phillip Boitano, a sophomore at Cardinal Newman High School, practices his dives at the Santa Rosa Junior College pool in Santa Rosa, Calif., as clouds from a late-winter weather front move in to northern California.



Car pool

Rob Barella and Adam Young of Powder Mill Towing, along with Parsippany (N.J.) Police officers David Cavaliere and Joseph Chmura, work to get a car out of a pool in Parsippany. The red Buick, which was parked at the Woroco gas station on Parsippany Road, slid down a hill behind the gas station and landed in a homeowner's pool. No one was injured.



Over the river and through the woods

Clover Hollow, near Newport, Va.

Snow covers the 1916 Newport covered bridge over Sinking Creek off Route 601 in

Drunk announcement

MN MOOREHEAD — Having a vanity plate that reads "TIPSY" may not be such a great idea after all. Josiah Johnson, 23, said his license plate might have tipped off the Clay County sheriff's deputy who pulled him over Friday after he left Coach's Sports Pub in Moorehead.

Now he faces third-degree drunken driving charges after his blood-alcohol level allegedly registered twice the legal limit.

Johnson said he bought the personalized license plate for his Jeep to describe the way it rode — then kept it as a joke when he got a Chevy Silverado because he likes to party.

High price for speeding

VA OCCOQUAN — Floor it along a stretch of Interstate 95 and you may really regret it.

Starting Friday, motorists who drive recklessly in the area between Occoquan and Quantico face fines of up to \$2,500. Those caught speeding will see their fines doubled.

The high number of traffic fatalities along the 11-mile stretch in Prince William County has prompted the state to designate it a Highway Safety Corridor.

Police unveiled new black and white warning signs Tuesday that mark the area and warn drivers about the extra fines.

No Brotherly Love

PA PHILADELPHIA — Twenty-one slayings in eight days have authorities begging the public for help identifying the killers.

As of Tuesday morning, the homicide toll in Philadelphia stood at 76 so far this year, up from 66 at the same point last year, police said.

District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham on Monday vowed that her office would protect witnesses, even if it meant sending a moving van to their homes to take them to safety.

"We cannot only move you out of the city, we can move you across the state," Abraham said.

Police have been on a campaign to persuade residents to cooperate with them since last year's death of a 10-year-old boy who was hit by a stray bullet during a shootout outside his school.

Girl Scouts robbed

OH COLUMBUS, Ohio — A group of Girl Scouts had a very unhappy encounter with a Cookie Monster.

The girls stood in disbelief as a man came to their cookie booth at a supermarket and ran off with an envelope containing \$320.

One of the five girls from Troop 4180 had recommended a box of Thin Mints when the man reached into the cash drawer and grabbed the envelope. An adult with the girls chased the thief but couldn't catch him.

The girls were working their stand inside a Kroger store about 2:30 p.m. Saturday when the man came by and said he'd never bought Girl Scout cookies. He handed one of the girls \$3, then said he wanted a second box but only gave her \$2 more.

When the girl pointed it out, the

man snatched the envelope.

Smith said the money would have paid for the girls to go to summer camp. Kroger employees took up a \$25 collection, but Smith said the girls won't sell from a booth anymore.

Crane experiment

FL TAMPA — An experiment-tal flock of whooping cranes has lost one of its youngest members to a Florida bobcat, but could be on the verge of producing chicks in the wild for the first time.

Six older cranes in the five-year effort to establish a migratory flock of the endangered birds between Wisconsin and Florida have formed into pairs and are being monitored closely for signs of nesting and breeding behavior, according to Operation Migration, the nonprofit group that has helped coordinate the project.

A Web update on the flock posted by Heather Ray, the group's director of operations, said a bobcat killed one of the cranes that were raised in Wisconsin last year — just as some of the other cranes have been beginning their flight north.

Woman dies at 110

VT BURLINGTON — Carolyn Eddy Drew, probably the oldest woman in Vermont, has died at the age of 110.

Drew worked at the Basin Harbor Club before World War I and married in 1917. Over 110th birthday in August, she dined on lobster.

Drew did not dwell much on her longevity, said her son, John Eddy. She spent little time reminiscing about the past or making much of a fuss about anything. Drew was born on Aug. 26, 1894, in North Elba, N.Y.

Who's child is it?

TX HOUSTON — A judge has ordered genetic tests to determine whether a woman's 2-year-old daughter was fathered by one of her teenage students.

Lisa Zuniga has admitted to having a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old boy who is now a student at Victory Academy in Pasadena, where she worked as a teacher's aide.

The boy, who is now 16, and his mother are suing for custody of the toddler.

Zuniga, now 29, pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child in January 2003 and was sentenced to deferred adjudication and 10 years' probation.

No paternity test was performed after the girl was born on Feb. 7, 2003, because of Zuniga's plea.

Wooly-trapped trail

NH LYNDENBOROUGH — A teenage boy has been charged with a wooly-trapping a snowmobile trail last weekend by stringing fishing line across the trail at head height.

The youngster is charged with reckless conduct, but his mother said the incident has been blown out of proportion.

Sgt. H. Michael Geha said the charge would have been harsher, but no one was hurt. He said the youth's motivation seemed to be to cause trouble and did not seem to reflect problems with snowmobilers.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Greenspan right on debt's ills The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's warning that ballooning federal deficits are "unsustainable" should be a much-needed splash of cold water for a White House that too often puts ideology before fiscal reality.

Greenspan thinks the problem demands spending cuts and a reassessment of efforts to cut taxes. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans think he's only half right. They ought to be listening with both ears.

The deficit problem is driven more by Medicare than Social Security. The federal government has passed huge entitlement increases, primarily a Medicare prescription drug benefit, at the same time it has cut its own revenue by "temporary" tax cuts that the White House still wants to make permanent. Anyone who prepares a household budget knows what happens when you increase expenses while losing income.

Regardless of what Vice President (Dick) Cheney thinks, deficits do matter. They pay for current needs by mortgaging the country's future. But those bills eventually come due. Greenspan is right to worry that increasing debt, plus ever-rising interest costs on that debt, could mean disaster when that debt collides with increasing baby boomer Medicare and Social Security obligations, let alone the costs of wars.

Shedding light on secrecy The News Tribune, Tacoma, Wash.

Self-preservation is human nature, and so it is not surprising when someone tries to hide a potentially embarrassing or compromising bit of information about himself. That instinct leads some government officials to keep their dealings secret. Problem is, the information they want to keep under wraps isn't primarily about them. It's about us.

That's the aim of public disclosure laws — to make sure private citizens can get at the information that affects their daily lives, whether they know it or not.

Sunshine Week, an effort spearheaded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, is intended to highlight the importance of public disclosure laws and to call attention to their erosion.

[The] journalists' fight against government secrecy is the public's right; reporters and editors just are the first to notice encroachments on the public's right to know.

The fight will never end because government will always be a human endeavor. The people we put in charge need constant reminders that they avoid embezzlement, the public's peril and, eventually, their own. It's not about them. It's about us.

U.N. has issues with Bolton Chicago Tribune

Since the start of his second term, President Bush has sent repeated messages that when he talks about aggressively spreading freedom and democracy, he means what he says. This month's declaration comes via the president's nomination of serial truth-teller John Bolton as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

If the Senate confirms the appointment, Bush will have aimed a tidal wave of energy and candor at the snoozy U.N. complex on New York City's East River. This promises to be the swiftest body to be taken down, consumed by such weighty issues as where in Manhattan diplomats can park free, and



who'll be air-kissing whom at tonight's reception.

For too long, the U.N. has been reluctant to offend powerful exploiters in its midst. In Darfur, for example, the determination of China to buy Sudanese oil and of Russia to sell Sudan weapons has blocked any real effort to halt mass murder.

U.N. delegates need to hear more confrontational talk about the organization's failings and also about nuclear proliferation, an area in which Bolton is expert. And if a tidal wave on the East River breaks some cobwebbed windows, good.

Society must protect judges The Cincinnati Enquirer

A defendant in Atlanta wrests a gun from a deputy and kills a judge in his courtroom. A disappointed litigant murders the husband and mother of a judge in Chicago and has a list of other judicial targets when he kills himself as police approach. A disturbed woman sends threatening letters to a federal judge in Cincinnati. These recent stories from America's courtrooms are just a fraction of the risks our judges face daily.

These high-profile cases also highlight the need for ever more vigilant security and a very small tolerance for those who attack all of us by attacking the judicial system.

Protecting judges, particularly on the federal level, poses many challenges, not the least of which is cost. But against the backdrop of these recent tragedies, now is the time to reassess the security of our courts and those who dispense justice within them.

Be flexible on Social Security The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

Whether you love him or hate him, at least a few of President Bush's words about Social Security should ring true.

"My call to people from both political parties is: Now is the time to put aside our political differences and focus on solving this problem for generations to come," Bush said during a recent appearance in Memphis.

"All ideas should be on the table."

From the way Bush was talking, it sounded as if even his idea to create private accounts — the controversial centerpiece of his reform plan — is open for debate.

That's a good thing, since a poll conducted by The Associated Press indicates that only

37 percent of Americans agree with his approach to fixing Social Security. Aside from a few hecklers who were escorted out of the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, the [Memphis] crowd was pretty respectful. However, the protesters outside reflected our country's deep division on this issue.

Yet if our president is really willing to be flexible and consider new ideas, the rest of us should be, too.

Oceans elect to avoid runoff The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

Anyone who lives in Louisiana is familiar with this scenario: runoff from farmland drains into the Gulf and triggers a massive bloom of algae that sucks oxygen out of the water as it dies and decomposes.

In this case, though, the phenomenon being described isn't the Gulf of Mexico dead zone that forms off the coast of Louisiana and Texas every summer. Instead, it's what happens in the Gulf of California — also called the Sea of Cortez — after irrigation in the Yaqui River Valley.

Researchers at Stanford University who analyzed satellite photographs were able to show a direct connection between irrigation and algae blooms.

The study reveals how vulnerable our oceans really are, and it should strengthen the argument for changes in farming practices.

Stanford researchers warn that dead zones could damage the shrimp and shellfish industry and hurt other marine life in the Gulf of California. The potential is there for loss of similar resources in other parts of the world, including our own.

No idiots in the jury box Los Angeles Times

Last summer, we questioned former Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay's decision to sit ignorant as the cornerstone of his legal defense against charges that he helped to orchestrate the massive accounting fraud that sank his company, destroyed investors' wealth and cost thousands of employees their jobs. It didn't seem plausible that jurors would buy into a powerful executive's claim to be incompetent.

Apparently, lawyers don't always heed newspaper editors' Defense teams for former WorldCom Chief Executive Bernard J. Ebbers and former HealthSouth CEO Richard M. Scrushy also signed on to the "idiot

defense," claiming that their clients' subordinates had pulled off the sham accounting on their own while the bosses were busy with more important things.

Early returns suggest that jurors aren't buying it. On Tuesday, a New York jury determined that Ebbers was guilty of all nine criminal counts of securities fraud, conspiracy and lying to regulators in orchestrating the largest accounting fraud in U.S. corporate history.

The total breakdown of Ebbers' idiot defense should send a powerful message to Scrushy and Lay. Scrushy, the first corporate executive to be tried under provisions of the federal Sarbanes-Oxley Act, sparked by Enron's failure, is pressing on with the "I knew nothing" defense in a Birmingham, Ala., courtroom. Lay, who will go on trial early next year on fraud and conspiracy charges, is so far taking the same tack.

His lawyers had best scramble for a Plan B.

Ignorance may be bliss in some quarters, but not in the executive suite.

Push on to limit junk-food ads St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Parents have a responsibility to prevent their children from becoming overweight. But what can they do about those ads that saturate the airwaves on Saturday mornings, exhorting kids to fill up on sugary cereals, drinks, candy and chips? They could turn off the TV. They could model healthy eating habits by resisting their own junk-food urges. And they can pressure government agencies to regulate the way junk food is hyped to kids.

Last fall, the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, urged that a conference be convened to develop strict government guidelines for food marketing to children. Instead, the U.S. Department of Health urged voluntary action by industry.

Groups ranging from the American Academy of Pediatrics to the World Health Organization have called for restrictions on the marketing of junk food to children. The food industry can't pretend it doesn't know how effective its marketing efforts have been.

It's in every taxpayer's interest to combat the predatory marketing practices of junk-food makers with the same vigor, if not the same tools, used to end the predatory marketing practices of the tobacco industry. If they can get Joe Camel fired, who knows? The Trix bunny rabbit may be next.

YOUR MONEY

Credit reports are free, if you're careful

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN
Orange County (Calif.) Register

When J.J. Singh heard in December that he could get a free credit report, he immediately went online to sign up. Within seconds, the report appeared on his computer screen, ready to download and print out.

"It was excellent," the retired La Palma, Calif., engineer said about the ordering process.

Ed Bushman, a retired radio manager in Irvine, Calif., phoned for his free credit report about the same time as Singh went online and, nearly two months later, he's still waiting to get it.

"They talk a good talk," Bushman said about the three big credit-reporting companies. "But after they got all the publicity, they dropped the ball."

December's launch of free annual credit reports won mixed reviews from consumers, with some applauding the program while others say it has fallen short.

The aim of the program, required by a new federal law, is to let consumers easily check their credit reports for inaccuracies and any evidence of identity theft.

Credit-reporting agencies Equifax, Experian and TransUnion had a year to put together the joint program, but even with all the advance planning, there were glitches.

Most of the problems occurred the first week, as the first of an estimated 40 million to 50 million consumers in the Western states jammed the Web site.

"The first day we had very heavy volumes with hundreds of thousands of people visiting the site trying to get their report," said John Danaher, president of TrueCredit, a subsidiary of TransUnion that oversees its credit reporting.

About 70 percent of TransUnion's requests for reports come online, with most of the rest coming through a toll-free phone

Consumers confused as no-cost personal financial info becomes available

number. Just a fraction of the requests are made in writing, Danaher said.

In response to the crush of requests, the agencies say they beefed up staffing and now most of their Internet problems, such as online delays and computer crashes, appear to be resolved.

Consumers say phone requests vary from very efficient to totally frustrating, depending on your tolerance for going through an automated menu of questions and the expertise of the customer representative you get.

People who submit written requests report getting either response within 10 days or none at all.

Jennette Gayer, consumer advocate for the California Public Interest Research Group, a nonpartisan consumer watchdog group, is concerned that the system is unnecessarily complicated.

"If I were to design this, I could think of a hundred ways to make it more consumer-friendly," Gayer said.

For instance, consumers making their request online must ask for each report individually from each of the three agencies. That requires going to the official Web site three separate times, typing in your name, address, birth date and Social Security number each time, then selecting one of the three credit agencies and answering additional questions to confirm your identity.

Each agency has different questions and requirements, with some requiring very precise information such as how much your mortgage payment is or the name of your employer in 1985. If your answer is even slightly off, you get rejected.

David Rubinger at Equifax said all the hurdles are for consumers' protection to ensure they are who they say they are before getting access to credit information.

"When you go through the pro-



cess of ordering a credit report online, you need to get authenticated," he said.

Even if you get kicked offline you still can get your report, he said. You just have to order by phone or mail.

Ann Anderson was one of those who got locked out of the Web site and was told she would have to call or write if she wanted a free copy of her credit information.

Which leads to another complaint—that advertising on each agency's free credit-report Web

site may mislead consumers into thinking they must purchase other services—like a credit score—that they don't need to buy if they just want a free report. The law that required the agencies to provide the free reports allowed them to advertise their other services, but it is not always clear on the sites that those extras are optional and in some cases may be a waste of money.

For instance, you probably don't need to know your credit score, sometimes called a FICO

score, unless you're in the market for a new car, house or other major purchase. Gayer and other consumer advocates worry that some consumers may not realize they can decline these services and just get the free report.

"You don't have to pay the \$4 or \$5 for a FICO score," Gayer said.

Another problem is that many look-alike Web sites can be confused with the official free credit-report site set up by the three credit-reporting agencies. The official site, at www.annualcreditreport.com, is separate from the credit-reporting agencies' regular Web sites, where consumers must pay to get their credit information, and other sites with similar names, which may just be trying to cash in on the program or may be fronts for credit fraud.

Hector Gonzalez of Orange, Calif., who works as a courier but does investing online, may have been one of those who was confused about the official Web site.

He went to a site that talked about free credit reports, but it required him to subscribe to a credit-tracking service to get his "free" report. He signed up for the \$70-a-year service.

"I know they were just trying to hook me in," Gonzalez said.

That service allowed him to cancel within a month, which he did, so in the end he didn't have to pay.

Don Girard of Experian said some of these services may be valuable to consumers, but none is required in order to qualify for a free report.

More importantly, he said, consumers need to make sure they are on the right site for their own protection.

"If you receive something in the mail or a telemarketing call or an e-mail, it is probably fraudulent," Girard said. "Security was very important to us when we designed this, so your readers have to go to the [right site], www.annualcreditreport.com."

First Command delays deadline of refund claims

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Lawyers handling refunds in the First Command Financial Planning case have extended the deadline for claims until June 30 to accommodate troops serving overseas.

Wayne M. Secore, the attorney administering the restitution program, said officials may push back that deadline even further if necessary. Originally, the deadline had only until March 15 to recoup their losses.

"We want to make sure everyone who is owed money has an opportunity to collect," Secore said. "We're still having requests coming in, so that's another reason to push back the deadline."

In December, as part of a settlement with federal regulators, First Command

In December, as part of a settlement with federal regulators, First Command agreed to refund about \$4 million in portfolio fees to customers who bought and sold systematic investment funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004.

agreed to refund about \$4 million in portfolio fees to customers who bought and sold systematic investment funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004.

Company officials eliminated those funds late last year, but were under investigation by the Security and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers for misrepresenting the up-front costs of those investments.

Also in the settlement, First Command paid an \$8 million fine—to be used by regulators to establish an investment education program for military personnel—and agreed to have all advertising approved by an independent consultant for two years.

According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of current active-duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of

noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The firm's client total is just under 300,000, and the majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

Secore said the decision to extend the deadline even further will depend on the level of response and the number of investors over the next three months, and if more time could result in more customers being helped. A number of troops serving overseas have already contacted his office, but he said officials are concerned that even more won't have time to inquire about the settlement until they return from deployment.

Investors with additional questions can contact his office at secore@secore-waller.com. Visit <http://www.nasd.com> for more information.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

YOUR MONEY

Never too late to save for frugal retirement

Q: I am a 60-year-old computer programmer who has endured some bumpy years.

A: I have no cash in the bank and no money in retirement funds, which were cashed out along the way. What I do have is debt: credit cards, a mortgage and a small auto payment.

I recently landed a job after a period of unemployment that allows me to start seriously paying off the credit cards, but there is no retirement plan.

I know you have good advice about putting pennies away and over 30 years or so they will become big bucks, but I don't think I will have 30 years. And so my question is: Is it too late for me?

A: If your dream is to buy a fancy yacht and sail the world, then, yes, it's probably too late for you to build a retirement nest egg that would support that lifestyle.

If your dream is simply to retire secure, then it may not be too late, as long as you're willing to make difficult choices.

As a guidebook, pick up a copy of "Your Money or Your Life" by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin. This book describes the strategies and lifestyles of people who radically altered their ideas about how much money they need to live. Many retired in their 50s, 40s or even younger or at least switched to part-time work they enjoyed.

These are not folks who drive luxury cars or ski Aspen in the high season. Most

lead extraordinarily frugal lives. But they've unchained themselves from the work-spend cycle that keeps many people stressed and in debt.

You actually have an advantage that younger advocates of this "financial independence" movement lack: You soon will have a guaranteed source of income. The annual statement you should be getting each month from the Social Security Administration will show how much you can expect to get each month if you retire at 62, 65 or 70.

If you can retire your expenses down to the smallest amount shown (the benefit at age 62), then conceivably you could retire in two years. More likely, you wouldn't want to live on quite that little, and will want a few more years working years to pay off your debts, build up your funds and increase your future Social Security benefits.

To get to your goal, you will probably need to make drastic changes in how much you spend now, as well as in retirement. You may need to move to a cheaper area (again, now or in retirement), and you may have to watch your pennies for as long as you live.

That may sound grim, but lots of people live on small, fixed incomes in retirement and still manage to have happy lives.

Q: I've been working at cleaning up my credit report, but a collection agency keeps changing the date on my oldest debts so they look more recent than they really are.

These debts are all more than seven years old and should have fallen off my report by now. But they're still there, depressing my credit score. What can I do?

A: The tactics of changing delinquency dates on old debts are called "re-aging," and it's illegal. One collection agency, NCO Group, was recently fined \$1.5 million for re-aging accounts; that is the largest civil penalty ever obtained under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Your first step is to write a letter to the credit bureau stating that you're reporting the inaccurate information. Make it clear that the collection agency has illegally re-aged the accounts and ask that the accounts be deleted from your files. Send this, and all other correspondence about the matter, by certified mail, return receipt requested. You'll want to keep a good paper trail.

Unfortunately, the bureaus may make only a cursory check with the collection agency, which will probably insist that the information is accurate. You will then need

to dispute the accounts directly with the collector, pointing out that re-aging is illegal and insisting that the agency provide the correct delinquency dates to the bureaus.

Debt expert Gerri Detweiler recommends sending copies of your letter to the Federal Trade Commission, your state's attorney general, your U.S. senators and congressional representative and the Better Business Bureau in the city where the collection agency is located.

The collection agency "may decide they don't want any more trouble and resolve it for her," said Detweiler, founder of StopDebtCollectorsCold.com. "If not, she will need an attorney."

It would be nice if you could solve the problem by paying the old debt. But that probably would make matters worse, because the payment would make the delinquencies look even more recent to the FICO credit scoring formula that most lenders use.

Besides, a collection agency shouldn't be rewarded for using such sleazy and illegal tactics.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be sent to her at 3048 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or at [lizpulliam.com](mailto:moneytalk@lizpulliam.com). She regrets that she can't respond personally to queries.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
52-week	Low	High	Low	High	52-week
High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
18,846.40	9,768.40	Dow Jones Industrials	18,829.67	+1.33	+0.01
3,889.97	2,743.46	NYSE	3,889.97	-0.71	-0.02
58,582.2	259.88	Dow Jones Utilities	59,220	+1.18	+0.01
7,415.68	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	7,475.84	+0.10	+0.01
1,579.14	1,150.74	Amex Index	1,483.94	-0.43	-0.03
2,121.68	1,572.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,070.79	-0.63	-0.03
1,279.11	1,069.72	S&P 500	1,189.65	-0.05	-0.01
658.38	548.29	S&P MidCap	653.38	-0.39	-0.06
656.11	515.90	S&P SmallCap	622.57	-2.89	-0.46
...
...

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Open	Chg	Name	Vol	Open	Chg	Name	Vol	Open	Chg
WalMart	64046	51.45	-0.88	SPDR	5680.2	15.54	-0.35	Microsoft	12319	31.11	-0.21
United	41793	33.48	+0.11	SPDR	7784.9	24.91	-0.04	Singapore (Dollars)	1429	1.63	-0.01
Lockhart	38877	2.87	+0.06	SPDR	1440.2	28.97	-0.14	South Korea (Won)	1000.80	0.00	-0.01
Johnson	36796	44.25	-0.39	S&P500	1883.4	12.88	-0.02	Thailand (Baht)	36.52	0.00	-0.01
Amgen	32775	18.74	+0.10	SPDR	9938	36.36	-0.10	Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollars)	1405	0.00	-0.01
Johnson	29872	62.85	+0.16	S&P500	8952	47.78	-0.56	Malaysia (Ringgit)	4.41	0.00	-0.01
Time Warner	31141	18.19	+0.14	SPDR	3838	30.33	+0.05	Philippines (Peso)	1759	0.00	-0.01
Verizon	29812	74.83	-0.17	SPDR	44.05	16.46	-0.01	Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3159	0.00	-0.01
Starline	29842	21.58	-0.89	Nasdaq	38.29	52.39	+0.15	South Korea (Won)	1000.80	0.00	-0.01
...

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS						KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	% Chg	Name	NAV	Chg	% Chg	YTD	
Alliant Technology	-	17	72.11	-0.43	+10.3	Fidelity Invest: Global	37.51	+0.42	+1.1	+1.1	
Airbus	-	11	40.42	-0.20	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: Global	36.88	-0.01	-0.03	+1.1	
Boeing	1.00	12	52.16	+2.17	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: Global	37.51	+0.42	+1.1	+1.1	
Comptech Systems	-	15	46.96	+1.15	+10.2	Amer Century Inv-Ultra	28.27	-0.27	-0.9	+1.1	
Department of Soc	0.71	17	50.79	-0.25	+11.4	Putnam Funds & Gwth P	32.24	-0.23	-0.7	+1.1	
General Dynamics	1.60	18	118.19	+2.01	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: A-Max	15.92	-0.03	-0.1	+1.1	
Lockheed Martin	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	Putnam Funds & Gwth P	32.24	-0.23	-0.7	+1.1	
Northrop Grumman	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: A-Max	15.92	-0.03	-0.1	+1.1	
Raytheon	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	Putnam Funds & Gwth P	32.24	-0.23	-0.7	+1.1	
Boeing	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	AIM Investments: A-Conti	22.27	-0.01	-0.04	+1.1	
Northrop Grumman	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: GSW	11.86	-0.06	-0.5	+1.1	
Raytheon	1.00	18	108.19	+2.01	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: GSW	11.86	-0.06	-0.5	+1.1	
AIM Global	0.33	23	63.42	-0.45	+11.4	Fidelity Invest: GSW	11.86	-0.06	-0.5	+1.1	

fun and games

Downrange



Downrange is drawn by Jeffery Hall. Check out the Web site: www.downrangeweb.com.

Web site of the week

Want the perks of being a big-game hunter without the mess? Get a head at <http://animalhead.com>. They've got everything from oarvark, right, to an allosaurus.

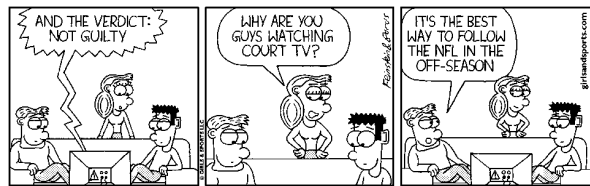


Ricky's Tour



Ricky's Tour is drawn by Mike Jones, an enlisted Navy Journalist. E-mail: rickystour@yahoo.com

Girls & Sports

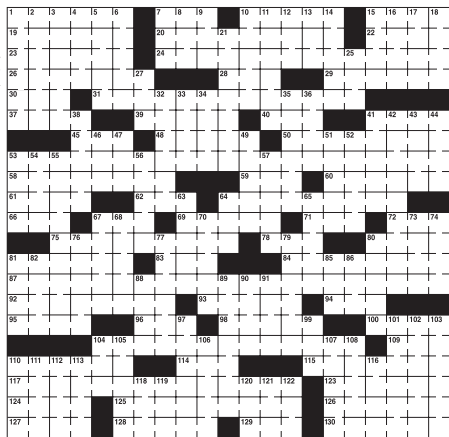


Girls & Sports is penned by Andrew Feinstein and Justin Borus. E-mail: creators@girlsandsports.com

LABORATORY MAZE BY PATRICK MERRELL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

When this puzzle is completed, solve the maze in the grid, traveling through the openings in the squares, beginning at 69-Across, ending at 103-Down ... and passing over the word spelled at 71-Across 18 times. As you proceed, the consecutive letters of 71-Across will always be in their correct order, on straight lines reading forward, backward, up or down.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Speaking sites
 - 7 D.C. lobbying grp.
 - 10 Olympian gift.
 - 15 One covering the infield
 - 19 Elucated
 - 20 Like most magazine personality tests
 - 22 Melville work
 - 23 Passé
 - 24 Small victory, in a lab maze?
 - 26 Attempted activity in "The Barber of Seville"
 - 28 Suffice with ideal
 - 29 Eats lasciviously
 - 30 Org. with a key-holding eagle in its logo
 - 31 Cheat, in a lab maze?
 - 37 See to
 - 39 Computer woe
 - 40 "The Confessions of _____ Turner"
 - 41 Rights grp.
 - 45 Double curve
 - 48 "Miss _____ Thompson," 1953 musical film
 - 50 Part of a food pyramid
 - 53 Hit a dead end mazewise?
 - 58 Term
 - 59 Set
 - 60 Mark and Shania
 - 61 Asia's ____ Sea
 - 62 Assent in les Alpes
 - 64 Feather holder
 - 66 Thither
 - 67 Jazz guitarist Montgomery
 - 69 Begin
 - 71 Lab maze runner
 - 72 Pit sight
 - 75 Works around town?
 - 78 ____ milk
 - 80 Stuffed food
 - 81 Materialize
 - 83 Article of the Constitution about the judiciary
 - 84 Dove
 - 87 Get weary solving a lab maze?
 - 92 Salute site
 - 93 Done in
 - 94 Make, in arithmetic
 - 95 Recipe info: Abbr.
 - 96 Sch. where Samuel Morse was a professor of art
 - 98 End of MGM's motto
 - 100 Mag. sales info
 - 104 Does some lab maze-solving?
 - 109 Book after Ezr.
 - 110 Head post
 - 114 Epitome of simplicity
 - 115 Go over again
 - 117 Solve a lab maze almost inaudibly?
 - 123 Brave cover
 - 124 "My Fair Lady" is based on his work
 - 125 Foundations
 - 126 Cars known for backfiring?
 - 128 High lands
 - 129 "Tasty!"
 - 130 Clue for a car mechanic
 - 137 Parks in Alabama
 - 138 "Every man will be a _____ if he can": Thoreau
 - 21 Arrives suddenly without formality
 - 25 Pommes frites seasoning
 - 27 State biggie
 - 32 One of a Hindu trinity
 - 33 O.E.D. part
 - 34 Designer Gernreich
 - 35 Had passed its expiration date
 - 36 Outmost of the Neutrans
 - 38 Transfer
 - 41 Play the role of
 - 42 Garbo film "Queen _____"
 - 43 Trim
 - 44 Deliverer of many plagues
 - 46 Didn't play
 - 47 ____ gender (unique)
 - 49 Anticipatory
 - 51 Stars, in Kansas' motto
 - 52 Stop from getting dry
 - 53 Mate's hello
 - 54 International coin
 - 55 Convey
 - 56 One taking a different cut?
 - 57 Gender cuts
 - 63 "Let me repeat ..."
 - 64 What a tipper tips
 - 65 Tumbler
 - 67 Anger
 - 68 Unexplainable
 - 70 Chamber groups
 - 73 Suffix with axiom
 - 74 Pile maker
 - 76 Lauren of "The Love Boat"
 - 77 Hand-color, in a way
 - 79 Gift-giver's urging
 - 80 French writer Georges
 - 81 Kodak competitor
 - 82 Spring event
 - 85 Org. with an emergency no.
 - 86 Gem. point
 - 88 Captain, e.g.
 - 89 Freight carrier
 - 90 Unloaded truck's weight
 - 91 Home page visits
 - 97 Olympics chant
 - 99 ____ Lanka
 - 101 Steamed
 - 102 Pass along, as gossip
 - 103 Maze reward
 - 104 Unit of matter: Abbr.
 - 105 Bottomless pit
 - 106 Helps do wrong
 - 107 Complete
 - 108 "____ hit?"
 - 110 1/16 of a cup: Abbr.
 - 111 Diamond Head's home
 - 112 Burlesque landing spot
 - 113 Jacob and Abraham, e.g.
 - 116 Break
 - 118 Go after
 - 119 Passers, briefly
 - 120 "____ Kyser's _____" Kollege of Musical Knowledge
 - 121 A.C. unit
 - 122 Verb for Poyeye



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Sunday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Bill Invitational, 3rd round (td).

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: NCAA women's tournament, first round, Virginia Tech vs. DePaul.

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—NBA: Houston at Minnesota, 1st round (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Pro football: NFL Arena Football League, teams TBD (td).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Spring training, Boston vs. LA Dodgers.

All times are Central European Time. Indicate delayed listings are subject to change. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring Training Game

AMERICAN LEAGUE		W	L	Pct.
Toronto	11	6	231	.323
Los Angeles	7	11	239	.380
Tampa Bay	6	6	231	.380
Cleveland	6	6	231	.380
Baltimore	6	6	231	.380
Boston	6	6	231	.380
New York	6	6	231	.380
Chicago	6	6	231	.380
Kansas City	6	6	231	.380
Seattle	6	6	231	.380

NATIONAL LEAGUE		W	L	Pct.
San Francisco	11	6	231	.323
Atlanta	7	11	239	.380
New York	6	6	231	.380
St. Louis	6	6	231	.380
Philadelphia	6	6	231	.380
Milwaukee	6	6	231	.380
Chicago	6	6	231	.380
Washington	6	6	231	.380
Cincinnati	6	6	231	.380
Cleveland	6	6	231	.380
Seattle	6	6	231	.380

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings. Games against major-league teams do not.

Friday's games	
Atlanta 11	Cleveland 6
Boston 5	Florida (ss) 3
Florida (ss) 4	St. Louis 0
Baltimore 9	Minnesota (ss) 3
San Diego 4	Texas 2
Oakland 5	Milwaukee 1
Colorado 5	Arizona 2
San Francisco 4	Seattle 3
L.A. Angels 5	Kansas City 3
Chicago White Sox 11	Chicago Cubs 9
Detroit 13	Houston 3
Toronto 5	Tampa Bay 4
Philadelphia 7	Pittsburgh 6
Cincinnati (ss) 4	Minnesota (ss) 2
Washington 2	N.Y. Mets 2, tie, 10 innings

Parker provides push as Spurs clinch playoff spot

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker quashed whatever hopes the Charlotte Bobcats had for a highly unlikely upset.

Parker scored 24 points, half of them in the decisive third quarter of San Antonio's 93-76 victory over the Bobcats on Friday night, clinching a spot in the Western Conference playoffs for the Spurs.

"Tony's energy was great all night," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He pushed the break, he moved the ball. His aggressive net set a tone."

After trailing by 10 at halftime, Charlotte got its deficit down to 60-54 midway through the third on a jumper by Emeke Okafor. But the Bobcats went scoreless and committed six turnovers during the final 6:05 of the quarter.

"Every time you make a move, somebody is there," Charlotte's Primoz Brezec said of San Antonio's defense. "They put pressure on us every first pass. There are no easy shots."

Parker shot 6-for-8 in the third period, which ended with a 12-0 run by San Antonio. Parker scored three of those six baskets and assisted on two others.

"We decided to play a little more defense," Parker said of the third-quarter lockdown. "I had some good looks because we were pushing them on the pick-and-roll."

San Antonio's lead widened to as many as 23 points in the fourth.

Tim Duncan added 20 points for the Spurs while Manu Ginobili had 15 and Robert Horri 11.



Roundup

The Spurs, playing their fifth straight game without injured swingman Manu Ginobili, improved their NBA-leading record to 50-15.

They are 31-3 at home, also best in the league.

The loss was the ninth straight for the Bobcats and their 18th in 20 games. They are 2-30 on the road.

Brezec led Charlotte with 18 points, and Jason Hart and Melvin Ely each scored 10. Okafor, the team's top scorer with 15-point average per game, finished with 7 points on 3-for-13 shooting and had 12 rebounds.

Charlotte shot 37.3 percent (28-for-75).

The Bobcats went up 13-9 on a three-pointer by Jason Kapono before a short turnaround jumper by Duncan started an 11-3 run that put the Spurs ahead by four late in the first quarter.

76ers 93, Cavaliers 81: At Cleveland, Allen Iverson tore the bandage off his chipped thumb and scored 31 points, and Chris Webber added 14 — including a three-pointer to start Philadelphia's game-ending 16-2 push.

Nets 94, Jazz 80: At East Rutherford, N.J., Vince Carter scored 10 of his 23 points in the pivotal third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 10 points, six assists and eight rebounds. Both sat out the



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan maneuvers against Charlotte Bobcats' Emeke Okafor, left, during the second half in San Antonio on Friday.

fourth quarter with the Nets firmly in command.

Knicks 106, Hawks 92: At Atlanta, Stephen Marbury scored 24 points and Tim Thomas added 23 as the New York Knicks ended a two-game losing streak and won on the road for just the eighth time this season.

Pistons 103, Raptors 92: At Auburn Hills, Mich., Chauncey

Billups scored 23 points and Tayshaun Prince added 21 to lead Detroit to its 11th straight home win.

Pacers 103, Lakers 97: At Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored a season-high 39 points, his highest total in nearly 4½ years. Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal said a sprained shoulder will sideline him for the rest of the season.

Nuggets 115, Clippers 96: At

Denver, Marcus Camby had 20 points and 17 rebounds to help the Nuggets to their 10th victory in 11 games and a 2½-game lead over the Lakers and Timberwolves for eighth place in the West.

Warriors 110, Suns 100: At Phoenix, Baron Davis made seven three-pointers and scored 33 points, including five during a decisive 12-0 run midway through the fourth quarter as the Warriors defeated an elite Western Conference team for the second straight night.

SuperSonics 98, Magic 90: At Seattle, Ray Allen tied his season high with 38 points to ruin Chris Jent's debut as the Magic's head coach. Orlando suffered its seventh consecutive defeat, a season high.

Grizzlies 88, Timberwolves 83: At Memphis, Jason Williams came off the bench to score 17 points, and Lorenzen Wright and Bonzi Wells added 16 and 13, respectively, for the eighth time in 10 games.

Hornets 94, Bulls 90: At Chicago, the Hornets improved to 4-28 on the road and won for the first time in 43 games this season when trailing going into the fourth quarter. The Bulls have lost four in a row for the first time since starting the season with nine straight losses.

Bucks 99, Wizards 90: At Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 26 points and Joe Smith added a season-high 24 as the Bucks blew a 6-point lead but still beat the short-handed Wizards.

Slutskaya wins gold in worlds

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Irina Slutskaya won the gold medal for the second time in the world championships Saturday, combining strength and style to cap an extraordinary season in which she prevailed despite a heart ailment and knee injury.

The Russian delivered a draining and dramatic program that featured seven classic triples to the delight of the home crowd.

"I'm happy because it's so difficult to come back so many times, to suffer so many misfortunes," said Slutskaya, who missed the 2003 world because of her ailing mother.

Sasha Cohen of the United States won the silver medal for the second straight year, and Carolina Kostner of Italy took the bronze. Michelle Kwan, the five-time world champion, was fourth, the first time since 1996 the American finished a world without a medal.

"I can leave Moscow satisfied, but disappointed, satisfied — kind of a roller-coaster ride and not as consistent as I wanted it to be," Kwan said.

Davenport blanks Sharapova; Agassi pulls out

The Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Lindsay Davenport accomplished something no one else has against Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova — a shutout.

Davenport beat the 17-year-old Russian 6-0, 6-0 in Friday's semifinal of a rare and swollen tie. The match lasted 49 minutes.

Earlier in the afternoon, Andre Agassi pulled out of his quarterfinal against Lleyton Hewitt because of a sore and swollen toe. It was the first time the 34-year-old Agassi could not take the court for a scheduled match in his career, 1,092 matches.

In a night match, Andy Roddick moved into the semifinals with a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Carlos Moya in a duel of former No. 1 players.

Roddick served 13 aces and was deadly at the net, volleying for 30 points on the way to the win over his Spanish opponent. Moya had five aces and won 21 points at the net.

Roddick faces Hewitt in one semifinal Saturday, and No. 1 Roger Federer plays Guillermo Canas in the other.

Kim Clijsters, the 2003 champion, faces Davenport in the women's final Saturday. Former No. 1 Clijsters defeated Elena Demenchieva 6-4, 6-2 in their semifinal.

As Sharapova failed to win a single game for the first time as a

Sports briefs

pro, she spent much of the match spraying groundstrokes outside the lines — at times by several feet — or hitting the ball into the net.

The loss was only her second in 19 matches this year.

Jets trade LB Cowart to Vikings for draft pick

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — The New York Jets traded middle line-backer Sam Cowart to the Minnesota Vikings on Friday for a seventh-round pick in this year's draft.

Cowart saw his playing time diminish in 2004 after a knee injury knocked him out for an extended period and rookie Jonathan Vilma emerged as a standout player. After the season, Cowart asked for a trade when it became clear he wouldn't have much of a role with the Jets.

The Vikings have been busy upgrading their defense in the off-season, signing linebacker Napoleon Harris, safety Darren Sharper, cornerback Fred Smoot and Williams in the past three weeks. Including Cowart, the five players bring a combined 339 NFL starts, 57 interceptions, 32 sacks and have played in three Pro Bowls.

Sonics lose valuable forward Radmanovic for 4-6 weeks

SEATTLE — Vladimir Radmanovic, a valuable reserve forward for the Northwest Division-leading Seattle SuperSonics, has a stress fracture in his right leg and will be out 4 to 6 weeks.

Radmanovic's right leg will first be placed in a cast and then a walking boot. The injury is expected to heal without surgery.

The Sonics placed him on the injured list Friday and activated forward Damien Wilkins, who was on the injured list with right knee patella tendinitis.

Radmanovic, 24, has been promoted by the Sonics as a contender for the NBA's Sixth Man Award. He showed up Friday night in the Seattle dressing room with his right leg in a cast before the Sonics' game against Orlando.

Wife of Pistons' Ham arrested in domestic assault case

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The wife of Detroit Pistons forward Darvin Ham was arrested early Friday on a domestic assault charge, authorities said.

Oakland County sheriff's deputies were called to the couple's Rochester Hills home about 3 a.m. EST, Sgt. John Jacobson said.

According to a sheriff's report cited by The Daily Oakland Press of Pontiac, Denetra Ham allegedly struck her husband on the head

with a wine bottle during a domestic dispute.

Ham, who was bleeding when deputies arrived but refused medical treatment, did not wish to press charges against his wife. But deputies took her into custody under a Michigan law allowing a police officer to make an arrest if the officer has reasonable cause to believe an assault has taken place.

Denetra Ham was arraigned later Friday on a charge of domestic assault and was released on a personal bond, Jacobson said.

Misdemeanor domestic violence is punishable by up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Johnson becomes first woman to reach FBA quarterfinals

WYOMING, Mich. — Liz Johnson became the first woman to reach the quarterfinals of a Professional Bowling Association event Friday.

The 30-year-old from Cheektowaga, N.Y., overcame a 2-1 deficit in her best-of-seven match against second-ranked Kristi Barnes of Texas. Barnes was found. Johnson fell behind 2-1 despite a 289 in the third game as Barnes rolled the 27th 300 game of his PBA career. Johnson rallied by winning the next three games, and then beat 15th-seeded Mike DeVany of Escondido, Calif., to reach the quarterfinals of the PBA's Banquet Open at Spectrum Lakes.

Despite penalties, clearing still expected in Nextel Cup

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — NASCAR has sent a clear message that it won't tolerate cheating.

Just don't expect a change of heart in the garage.

Fudging the rules is part of the sport's culture, and no one expects that to change even with the severe penalties handed down by NASCAR this week. Three crew chiefs were suspended and Jimmie Johnson lost his points lead for various infractions in the last race at Las Vegas.

"This sport has always been about you make the rules and I'll try to beat you," Kyle Petty said Friday, even as inspectors swarmed through the garage at Atlanta Motor Speedway looking for infractions.

"It's like being married. Some days you can just sit around in front of the TV. Some days you can't," Petty said. "When there's a blatant disregard for the rules, NASCAR steps in. What they're

telling you is: We're still your wife."

From the earliest days, drivers and mechanics have looked for ways to increase speeds without running afoul of the inspectors.

It's a game of cat and mouse with no clearly defined boundaries because the NASCAR rulebook is notorious for its vagueness.

Back on the track, Ryan Newman won his fifth straight pole at Atlanta, turning a lap of 194.69 mph Friday night to escape punishment, dipped into the upper 40s. It was the 29th career pole for Newman.

Bobby Hamilton Jr. turned in the best qualifying run of his career, putting up the second-fastest speed (193.785) to earn a front-row spot alongside Newman for Sunday's Golden Corral 500.

As for those who break the rules, NASCAR is clearly trying to send a message that they can't win out of bounds.

Johnson's winning car at Las

Vegas failed to pass inspection after the race, falling short of the minimum height requirement.

NASCAR suspended his crew chief, Chad Knaus, for two races and docked Johnson 25 points in the standings, dropping him behind defending series champion Kurt Busch.

Kyle Gustafson, crew chief for Ryan Newman, also received a two-week suspension when the runner-up car was found to be too high after the race.

But NASCAR saved the most severe punishment for Todd Berrier, crew chief for Kevin Harvick. Berrier received a four-week suspension for rigging the fuel tank to appear full when it actually wasn't during qualifying — knowing a lighter car could run faster.

All three crew chiefs, who received hefty fines as well, appealed their suspensions, clearing them to stay with their teams this week. But only Knaus and Gustafson were in Atlanta — Berrier began serving his penalty, knowing his only hope was to reduce the length of his suspension, not wipe it out altogether.

Golden Corral 500 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying: race Sunday
At Atlanta Motor Speedway
Hampton, Ga.

Lap length: 1.54 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (12) Matt Kenseth, Dodge, 195.0 mph
2. (32) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 194.69
3. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 193.184
4. (39) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 192.971
5. (64) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 191.067
6. (14) Greg Biffle, Ford, 191.252
7. (53) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 191.192
8. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 191.126
9. (11) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 190.935
10. (18) Elliott Sauter, Ford, 190.883
11. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 190.791
12. (10) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 190.699
13. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 190.614
14. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 190.516
15. (70) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 190.150
16. (10) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 190.150
17. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 190.614
18. (31) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 190.046
19. (60) Shane Hall, Chevrolet, 189.748
20. (77) Travis Kvapil, Dodge, 189.748
21. (60) Shane Hall, Chevrolet, 189.748
22. (50) Jimmy Spencer, Dodge, 188.662
23. (60) Shane Hall, Chevrolet, 189.748
24. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 189.339
25. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 189.234
26. (17) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 189.234
27. (67) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 188.726
28. (14) Greg Biffle, Ford, 188.726
29. (37) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 188.726
30. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 188.726
31. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 188.424
32. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 188.424
33. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 188.663
34. (68) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 187.229
35. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 187.229
36. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 186.944
37. (14) Greg Biffle, Ford, 186.944
38. (53) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 186.944
39. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 186.944
40. (14) Greg Biffle, Ford, 186.944
41. (45) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, owner's points
42. (5) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, owner's points
43. (75) Mike Garvey, Dodge, 187.843
44. (24) Randy LaJoie, Chevrolet, 186.303
45. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 187.773
46. (92) Stanton Barrett Jr., Chevrolet, 186.959
47. (69) Carl Long, Chevrolet, 184.814
48. (77) Kirk Sheldahl, Ford, 184.033
49. (66) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 183.766
50. (68) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 183.443

CS-Fullerton too much for Frisco in NIT

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Bobby Brown had 25 points and seven rebounds to help Cal State-Fullerton beat San Francisco 85-69 on Friday night in the first round of the NIT.

After shooting only 33.3 percent from the floor in the first half, the Titans (21-10) hit 12 of their first 14 attempts in the second and scored 57 points in the final 20 minutes to set up a second-round game at Georgetown.

Ralphie Holmes added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Titans, who won for the 13th time in 16 games.

John Cox scored 17 points to finish eighth on San Francisco's career scoring list with 1,540 points. Cox, who scored 27 in the Dons' opening-round victory over Denver on Wednesday night, missed nine of his first 10 shots and finished 6-for-22.

San Francisco (17-14) made only 35.1 percent of its shots from the floor and was outrebounded 25-12 in the second half.

Perry leads by one midway through Bay Hill Inv.

The Associated Press



Scheduled to play 36 holes on Saturday, Tiger Woods shot 70 on the first 18 to finish two rounds three shots behind the leader.

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kenny Perry kept the ball out of the rough and close to the hole, making five birdies during a six-hole stretch Saturday morning that gave him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead in the Bay Hill Invitational when the second round finally ended.

Thick rough and slow greens have befuddled the best players, making scores the highest they have been at Bay Hill in a dozen years. Perry was at 6-under 138, making him the halfway leader for the first time since he won the Memorial two years ago.

"I'm starting to hit my irons close to the hole," Perry said.

He had a one-shot lead over Charles Howell III and Stephen Ames, who played 36 holes Friday in a tournament that has been out of whack since an eight-hour rain delay on Thursday.

Golf roundup

What of the Big Three?
Vijay Singh, who can return to No. 1 in the world this week by winning, also played 36 holes Friday and shot 72-68, highlighted by a 9-iron he holed from 152 yards on No. 8 that left him two shots out of the lead.

Tiger Woods and Ernie Els started their second round Saturday morning. Woods made a few sloppy mistakes in a round of 70 that left him three shots behind. Els twice hit into the water and once hit out of bounds, matching his career high at Bay Hill with a 77. Els barely made the cut.

Perry nearly had some company at the top.

K.J. Choi was at 7-under and playing the easiest hole at Bay

Hill, but he hit his approach into the water on the par-5 16th and took bogey. Still tied for the lead, he had a calamitous end to his second round.

He put his approach into the bunker on the 18th, facing a downhill shot to the pin with water on the other side. Choi got too delicate with his shot and left it in the sand, blasted out to 12 feet and missed to end with a double bogey. He wound up with a 70 and joined Singh and Sergio Garcia (70) at 140, two shots out of the lead.

Ochoa leads Sorenstam by two

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Lorena Ochoa shot 5-under 67 to take a two-shot lead in the Gateway International with Annika Sorenstam three strokes behind and Michelle Wie lurking.

Ochoa, the 23-year-old Mexican star who was the LPGA Tour's

rookie of the year two seasons ago, had a 12-under 132 total.



Soo-Yun Kang was second after a 66, and Sorenstam, the defending champion, was 9-under after a 69. Siew-At Lim, who shared the first-round lead with Ochoa, was 7-under after a 72, with Grace Park (67) and Karen Stupples (71) at 6-under.

Candle Kung (70) and Juli Inkster (73) were next at 5-under 139, and the 15-year-old Wie followed her opening 73 with a 67 to join Laura Davies (69), Paula Creamer (71), Liselotte Neumann (70) and Laura Diaz (67) at 5-under.

Morgan's 65 paces seniors

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Gil Morgan shot 6-under 65 to take a one-stroke lead over Tom Jenkins and Wayne Levi after the first round of the Toshiba Senior Classic.

Mark McNulty and Bruce Lietzke were two strokes back along with seven others.

Mobilize for your civilian life.



Your 2005 Audi or Volkswagen will be waiting for you Stateside.

NOW SERVING OUR MILITARY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND PACIFIC.

• Custom-ordered vehicles • Invoice-based pricing • 100% Price Protection

Contact International AutoSource at: www.audimilitarycarsales.com
Email: audimilitary@audimilitarycars.com

Web site: www.audimilitarycarsales.com
Email: military@audimilitarycars.com

STATISTICAL DELIVERY ONLY: International AutoSource is the authorized distributor of Volkswagen products to the International Expat community. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to change without the manufacturer and the laws or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Vehicles shown are for illustration only and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. 05/05/05

NCAA tournament: Austin Regional



Duke's Shawn Randolph (42) is trapped by Delaware State's Aaron Fleetwood (34) and Bruce Davis (11) during the top-seeded Blue Devils' 57-46 victory on Friday. Duke shot just 41 percent from the field.

Persistent Hornets pester mighty Duke

By KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski knows better than anyone just how precious games are in the NCAA tournament, so while he didn't dwell on his record-setting night, he paused to appreciate it.

"I'm glad we won, whatever number it was," Coach K said. "Each victory in the tournament is a treasured win, because it's a great tournament."

Shelden Williams had 14 points and 11 rebounds and top-seeded Duke held off 16th-seeded Delaware State 57-46 on Friday night in the Austin Regional, giving Krzyzewski his 65th career victory in the tournament.

In 21 NCAA tournaments, Krzyzewski's record is 65-17, tying Dean Smith's for most career victories.

"He doesn't like to bring those things up," Blue Devils guard J.J. Redick said. "I actually knew. I

try to keep up with all his wins and all his stats. I knew that was going on, but he hasn't talked about it. I'm happy for him."

Duke (26-5) will face ninth-seeded Mississippi State in the second round Sunday.

The Blue Devils struggled throughout against the Hornets (19-13) despite having guard Sean Dockery back for the first time in seven games after he suffered a knee injury.

The Mid-East Athletic Conference champion had won 15 of its previous 17 games, including three straight in the conference tournament. Delaware State befuddled Duke in the first half with a lineup of five guards, spreading the floor and letting the shot clock wind down before driving to the basket.

Delaware State led 14-12 after 10 minutes and a putback by Tracey Worley tied it at 23 with 5 minutes left in the first half.

"They won the regular season and their tournament with that system. They believe in it," Krzyzewski said. "They're quick, and they're good kids. They play together. It didn't seem to matter who shot the ball."

The Blue Devils took control with consecutive three-pointers by Daniel Ewing and Lee McMichion, then opened the second half with an 11-2 run to pull away. The Hornets missed 15 straight shots at one point until Worley swished a three to make it 49-35.

The margin eventually reached 20 before Delaware State rallied. Jashia Blunt made a jumper from beyond the arc, and after Worley added another basket, Troy Roundtree made a three-pointer to bring the Hornets within 45-33.

"I thought our kids put forth a great effort," Hornets coach Greg Jackson said. "There's no question we gave it our best shot. The kids showed a lot of patience and desire until the talent just took over."

Worley led Delaware State with 13 points, and Roundtree added 11.

Monarchs are a royal pain for victorious Michigan St.

The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Tom Izzo leaned back in his chair, his arms spread out, his lips pursed. The usually volatile Michigan State coach didn't like what he was seeing.

The fifth-seeded Spartans couldn't pull away until the final minutes, when Shannon Brown made a spinning layup to start a three-point play that helped Michigan State beat Old Dominion 89-81 on Friday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"I was disappointed in the first half, at the energy they brought," and Izzo, whose team trailed by five at halftime. "I'm not used to teams playing harder than us, and I thought they did."

Michigan State (23-6) managed to avoid a second consecutive first-round exit and gave Izzo, whose NCAA winning percentage is second only to Mike Krzyzewski's, his 20th NCAA tournament win. The Spartans will see 13th-seeded Vermont on Sunday.

Old Dominion (28-6) dominated the Colonial Athletic Association, but couldn't add to the upsets of the Worcester State Monarchs last advanced in the NCAA's when they beat Villanova in triple overtime in the opening round of the 1995 tournament.

"Coming into the game, we knew we all belonged," Old Dominion

guard Kiah Thomas said. "When I first got to ODU, we were going to win night in and night out. We really didn't know. Tonight every man, to a man, believed."

Brown scored 13 points, and Alan Anderson had 15 to lead five Spartans in double figures. Michigan State shot 57 percent (29-for-51) from the floor in the game despite making just three of 14 shots from three-point range.

Alex Loughton had 22 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for Old Dominion after playing much of the second half in foul trouble.

Drew Williams, who did not have a turnover in 91 minutes in the CAA tournament, had 74-68

lead before Valdas Vasilius hit a three-pointer with 4:31 left. Hunter hit two free throws to make it a 76-75 with 3:48 remaining before the teams traded misses. Brown got the ball under the basket, spun around and tossed it in, landing in a crouch and pumping his fists while the official whistled for a foul.

He hit the free throw to make it 79-75 with 2:50 left.

The Spartans extended it to six points before Loughton's basket with 1:09 left made it 81-77. With 54 seconds left, Paul Davis made a leaper in the lane just before the shot clock expired, giving the Spartans an 83-77 lead.

Michigan State went 6-for-6 from the line during the stretch. Also on Friday:

Mississippi St. 93, Stanford 70: In Charlotte, N.C., Wisconsin Frazier made six three-pointers and scored 20 points to lead the ninth-seeded Bulldogs (23-10) to a second-round matchup with Duke. Lawrence Roberts, the 2004 SEC player of the year, led the Bulldogs with 23 points and 14 rebounds. But Frazier, who did not score more than 13 points in his past eight games, provided the spark to get past Stanford (18-13).

Frazier was seven of nine from the floor, including six of eight from three-point range. Shane Power added 14 points for Mississippi State, eliminated in the second round by Xavier last year as a No. 2 seed.

Chris Hernandez led Stanford with 17 points. Rob Little and Matt Haryasz had 14 each.

The Bulldogs made four three-pointers in the final 5:08 of the first half, including three straight that made it 50-44. Stanford forced the half and take a 44-43 halftime lead.

Frazier made back-to-back threes to start the second half, including an off-balance fadeaway off one foot that made it 50-44.

Stanford struggled with its long-range shots, missing its first five three-pointers in the second half, allowing the Bulldogs to take a 63-53 lead with 11:21 to play.

NCAA tournament: Chicago Regional

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — James On Curry hesitated for a split second, then jumped and let loose a three-pointer right in front of his coach's seat.

When the shot fell through, the 19-year-old freshman didn't keep his excitement inside. He pumped his fist as he walked toward midcourt, giving second-seeded Oklahoma State the boost it needed in its 63-50 victory over Southeastern Louisiana on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Cowboys will play Southern Illinois on Sunday.

The three-pointer put Oklahoma State ahead 54-47 with just under 4 minutes to play, and the Cowboys (25-6) held off the Lions (24-9) by making their next nine free throws.

Once the Lions pulled within 51-47, it was Curry's enthusiasm that put the Cowboys over the top. He sliced into the lane and finished from near McFarland cutting to the basket for a layup.

Curry was only getting started. He added a free throw, then found McFarland for another basket inside to put Oklahoma State ahead 49-44. Terrence Crawford emphatically jammed home a miss by John Lucas II, and Curry hit three three-pointers from the left wing in front of coach Eddie Sutton. Curry had 13 points.



James On Curry, a 19-year-old freshman, scored 13 points and made key plays late in a 63-50 victory Friday over SE Louisiana.

"He's just an outstanding player for his age," Sutton said. "He has no fear. He's not afraid to take that shot."

McFarland scored 18 points to lead the Cowboys, who reached the Final Four last season.

The Lions, trying to become the fifth No. 15 seed to win a first-round game, were within 44-41 midway through the second half after an 11-3 run fueled by Ricky Woods' ability to get inside and cause havoc.

Woods sank a leaping flip against Crawford, finished a whirling drive down the lane and grabbed a deflected pass for a two-handed jam, then drove the lane and dishd off to Jonathan Walker to make it 42-39. Woods led the Lions with 16 points.

Also on Friday:

Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's 56: Oklahoma City Stetson Hairston broke a late tie with three free throws, then followed with a three-pointer, and Darren Brooks drove for the next two baskets to give the Salukis the push they needed to win.

Southern Illinois (27-7) advanced for the first time since 2002, when Hairston and Brooks were freshmen on a club that made the regional semifinals. The Salukis were knocked out by one point in the opening round the past two years.

The Salukis went on an early 14-0 run fueled by nine turnovers, including a run of eight straight trips downcourt for the 10th-seeded Gaels (25-9).

Yet Saint Mary's kept chipping away and got within 35-30 early in the second half. After a layup behind the 12, the Gaels went on another run, thanks to reserve Brett Collins. He scored 11 of his next 13 points, tying it at 41-41.

Daniel Kickert led Saint Mary's with 16 points.

The Olympic Institute for Leadership Development, Inc.

DON'T JUST "MARCH FOR MARCH FORWARD"

Have your career and educational goals been put on hold by long overseas deployments and working 24/7 under hostile field conditions? Interested in becoming a Commissioned Officer or advancing your education? We can help you get on active duty and forward deployed. Get on the fast track with the Olympic Institute.

- Gain acceptance to federal academies, college ROTC, military junior colleges and prep schools
- Upon admission be released from your current employment contract
- Ongoing personalized assistance at every step of the process

We appreciate the sacrifice that you are making to serve your country. Let us help you keep your future on track.

Check us out at olympicinstitute.com/midwest.htm and "MARCH FORWARD!"



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack (3) takes control of a loose ball against George Washington.

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND
Tuesday, March 15
 Oakland, Minn. 75, Alabama 68
SYRACUSE REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 18
 North Carolina State 75, Charlotte 63
 Connecticut 77, Central Florida 71
 Iowa State 64, Minnesota 33
 North Carolina 55, Oakland, Mich. 68
 Florida 67, Ohio 62
 Villanova 55, New Mexico 47
 Wisconsin 57, Northern Iowa 52
 Bucknell 64, Kansas 63
Second Round
Sunday, March 20
 Connecticut vs. North Carolina State
 North Carolina vs. Iowa State
 Florida vs. Villanova
 Bucknell vs. Wisconsin
Semifinals
Friday, March 25
 N. Carolina/Iowa St. vs. Florida/Villanova
 UConn/N.C. State vs. Bucknell/Wisconsin
Sunday, March 27
CHICAGO REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 24
 Wisconsin/Illinois 65, Pennsylvania 65
 Nevada 61, Texas 57
 Illinois 67, Fairleigh Dickinson 55
 Arizona 66, Utah State 53
 Alabama-Birmingham 61, LSU 68
Friday, March 18
 Oklahoma State 63, St. Louis 50
 Southern Illinois 65, Saint Mary's, Calif. 55
Second Round
Sunday, March 19
 Boston College vs. Wisconsin/Milwaukee
 Illinois vs. Nevada
 Arizona vs. Alabama-Birmingham
 Oklahoma State vs. Southern Illinois
Semifinals
Thursday, March 24
 Illinois/Nevada vs. Boston College/Wisconsin
 Milwaukee
 Oklahoma St./So. Illinois vs. Arizona/Utah
Saturday, March 26
AUSTIN REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
 Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64
 Cincinnati 76, Iowa 61
 Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67
 Utah 60, Texas 61
Friday, March 18
 Vermont 60, Syracuse 57, overtime
 Michigan 51, Old Dominion 61
 Duke 57, Delaware State 46
 Mississippi St. 59, Stanford 50
Second Round
Saturday, March 19
 Kentucky vs. Cincinnati
 Oklahoma vs. Utah
 Vermont vs. Michigan State
 Duke vs. Mississippi State
Semifinals
Friday, March 25
 Duke/Miss. St. vs. Vermont/Michigan St.
 Kentucky/Cincinnati vs. Oklahoma/Utah
Sunday, March 27
ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
 Pacific 79, Pittsburgh 71
 Wake Forest 73, Chattanooga 54
 West Virginia 63, Creighton 61
 Syracuse 65, St. Francis 59
 Gonzaga 74, Winthrop 64
 Texas Tech 70, UCLA 57
Friday, March 18
 Louisville 68, La.-Lafayette 62
 Georgia Tech 89, George Washington 68
Second Round
Saturday, March 19
 Wake Forest vs. West Virginia
 Syracuse vs. Pacific
 Gonzaga vs. Texas Tech
Sunday, March 20
 Louisville vs. Georgia Tech
Semifinals
Thursday, March 24
 Washington/Pacific vs. Gonzaga/Texas Tech
 Wake/W.V. vs. Georgia Tech
Sunday, March 27
FINAL FOUR
Saturday, April 2
 Chicago regional champion vs. Albuquerque regional champion
 Austin regional champion vs. Syracuse regional champion
Sunday, April 4
 Championship

NCAA tournament: Albuquerque Regional

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Rick Pitino warned his team not to expect an easy game against Louisiana-Lafayette in the first round of the NCAA tournament, and the Ragin' Cajuns proved just as troublesome as predicted.

"Even at halftime, we said, 'Look guys, you think you're going to blow this team out, you're mistaken. It's coming down to the last 2 minutes,'" Pitino said after his fourth-seeded Louisville Cardinals advanced in the Albuquerque Regional with a 68-62 victory Friday.

"We're very proud of this victory. When you're a 4-seed, and you play these teams today, you're going to play a terrific basketball game. We knew we weren't getting a breather."

Francisco Garcia went 7-of-9 from the foul line in the final 1:57, finishing with 27 points to help Louisville (30-4) reach the second round for the second time in three years under Pitino, who is 28-9 in the NCAA tournament.

Louisville will face fifth-seeded Georgia Tech in the second round Sunday. The Yellow Jackets beat George Washington 80-68.

Pitino insisted all along that Louisiana-Lafayette was not a typical No. 13 seed, going as far as to say the Ragin' Cajuns were the most difficult first-round opponent he's faced in 10 tournament appearances with Boston University, Kentucky and Louisville.

Turns out, he wasn't just paying lip service. There were eight lead changes during the second half before Louisville finally went ahead for good at 56-55 on two free throws by Larry O'Bannon with 3:43 to go. The Cardinals were led to one field goal the rest of the way — Otis George's tip-in — but made eight more free throws to pull away.



Louisville coach Rick Pitino voices his displeasure during Friday night's 68-62 NCAA tournament victory over Louisiana-Lafayette.

No one excelled more than Garcia. He was fouled by Dwayne Mitchell on a three-point attempt with 1:57 to go, and made all three free throws for a 63-57 lead. He made two more with a minute left, then calmly sank his last two to push the Cardinals' advantage back to

five with 13.9 seconds remaining.

O'Bannon scored 13 points and Taquan Dean had 12 for Louisville.

Brian Hamilton led Louisiana-Lafayette (20-11) with 19 points before fouling out. Tiras Wade had 15 points and Chris Cameron added 11.

"It is a shame a team had to lose tonight," Louisiana-Lafayette coach Robert Lee said. "But our team played great, and that's all I can ask."

Georgia Tech 80, George Washington 68: Jarrett Jack, Will Bynum and B.J. Elder combined to score on six straight possessions in the second half as Georgia Tech (20-11) pulled away from pesky George Washington. Jack had 20 to lead the Yellow Jackets, who won no game by more than eight points on the way to last year's NCAA championship game. Bynum had 17 and Elder added 15.

Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 15 to lead four players in double figures for 12th-seeded George Washington (22-8), which was doomed by dismal foul shooting. The Colonials missed 12 of 16 at the line, with a string of seven straight misses at one point.

The lead changed nine times and George Washington kept scrapping back whenever Tech threatened to make a run. When Bynum stole the ball and took it in for a layup, giving Georgia Tech a 57-54 lead with 11 minutes left, J.R. Pinnoch answered back with a quick basket.

Then Elder hit a pullup jumper to spark a 12-0 run that sealed the outcome. The Yellow Jackets scored on six straight possessions, with Bynum, Elder and Pinnoch.

Mensah-Bonsu finally stopped the run with a dunk, but George Washington didn't get close again.

NCAA tournament: Syracuse Regional

The Associated Press

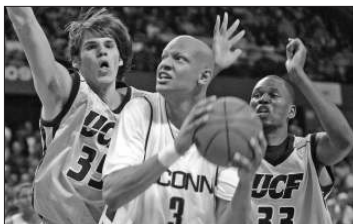
WORCESTER, Mass. — Charlie Villanueva scored 22 points and defending national champion Connecticut blew most of a 19-point lead before trimming Central Florida 77-71 on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament's Syracuse Regional.

Connecticut (23-7) faces a second-round game Sunday against North Carolina State, but that could be unless the second-seeded Huskies snap out of a slump that has stymied them for the past three games.

Gary Johnson had career-high 29 points and seven three-pointers for Central Florida (24-9), which had won eight straight games. Kingsley Edwards' layup got Central Florida to 74-69, but only 23.2 seconds remained and the Golden Knights were forced to start fouling.

Florida 67, Ohio 62: At Nashville, Tenn., Florida blew a 20-point lead, but Anthony Robertson converted a three-point play with 1:33 left to help the Gators advance.

Fourth-seeded Florida (24-7) hung on after blowing a 55-35 lead with 11:51 left. The Bobcats (21-11), who rallied from 10 down to win the Mid-American Conference title game, went on a 20-2 run, tying it 60-60 with 2:12 left. Green's sixth three-point.



Connecticut's Charlie Villanueva (3) draws two defenders during the defending champion Huskies' first-round victory over Central Florida.

18 points. Green finished with 24 points for the Bobcats.

Villanova 55, New Mexico 47: At Nashville, Tenn., Kyle Lowry made two sets of free throws in the final 1:38, then came up with a clutch shot as Villanova held off New Mexico.

Lowry finished with eight points, while Mike Nardi led the Wildcats (23-7) with 15 points. After holding 12th-seeded New Mexico to just 11 points in the first half and leading by as many as 24, Villanova made just three field goals in the second half. The Lobos (26-7) made a furious rally, pulling within 52-47 with 29 seconds left.

top-seeded Tar Heels' rout. Rashad McCants added 16 points for North Carolina (28-4), which shot 73 percent in the first half in building a 28-point lead.

Cortney Scott finished with 21 points to lead Oklahoma (13-19), which won only nine regular-season games but reached the NCAA tournament after an improbable run through the Mid-Continent Conference tournament and a defeat of Alabama A&M in Tuesday's play-in game.

Iowa State 64, Minnesota 53: At Charlotte, N.C., Iowa State held Minnesota to 33 percent shooting and Curtis Stinson led a balanced attack with 18 points. Rashawn Clark and Jared Homan added 14 points each for Iowa State (19-1).

Brent Lawson and Vincent Grier had 14 apiece for the eighth-seeded Gophers (21-11). Using some full-court pressure and almost exclusively going with a zone, the Cyclones forced 17 turnovers and kept the Gophers off balance throughout.

Wisconsin 57, Northern Iowa 52: At Oklahoma City, Kamron Taylor scored 16 points in a reserve role, including a jumper conference free throw in the final minute, to help Wisconsin hold off Northern Iowa.

Sharif Chambliss hit a season-high five three-pointers for 15 points for Wisconsin (23-8).

Ben Jacobson led the Panthers (21-11) with 20 points.

Bucknell: Kansas gets more than just scare this time

BUCKNELL, FROM BACK PAGE

"Certainly it's the biggest win we've ever had," said coach Pat Flannery, a 1980 Bucknell grad. "Our kids battled their big kids all night long. Our kids made them work for everything they got."

The Jayhawks (23-7) had reached the second round every year since 1984 and in their last 21 tries. Although they had scares along the way, including one by Utah State in Oklahoma City two years ago, this was their first opening-round exit since being eliminated by UCLA in 1978.

"I think everybody's kind of in a moment of shock," said coach Bill Self, in just his second season at Kansas. "These seniors have looked to this moment for a long time. To have it end so abruptly of course is devastating to those guys. I really don't have any words to try to comfort them right now."

Kansas seemed vulnerable because it had lost five of its last eight and No. 2 scorer Keith Langford was slowed by a lingering flu problem and a creaky left ankle. However, the Jayhawks weren't too concerned because four of those recent losses were to teams that won first-round NCAA games.

Bucknell opened its scoring

with a four-point play by Betten-court and led by seven midway through the first half. Kansas closed the half with a 10-0 run to take the lead, but with Simien the only consistent threat (24 points, 10 rebounds), the Jayhawks were unable to take control. They didn't even make a field goal the last 8:44.

Still, Kansas had a chance to win in the final minute, when Langford hit two free throws with 25.4 seconds left for a 63-62 lead.

Opting not to call a timeout, Bucknell went straight up the court and fed McNaughton in the lane. He threw a shot over Simien that accounted for the game's ninth and final lead change.

"It came off the backboard and rimmed in somehow — I don't even know how, but I don't care," said McNaughton, who was 6-for-7 and scored 14 points.

Langford had another attempt, but missed short. Bucknell's John Griffin got the rebound and was fouled, but missed the front end of a one-and-one and Simien grabbed it with 2.4 seconds left.

After a timeout, Kansas tried the Grant Hill-to-Christian Laettner play Duke used to beat Kentucky in the 1992 NCAAAs. Michael Lee's heave to Simien went perfectly and he spun for a good look at the basket. But his shot hit the rim and bounced away.

"It went over my right shoulder,



Bucknell center Chris McNaughton releases the game-winning hook shot over Kansas forward Wayne Simien on Friday night.

der, which is a very comfortable move for me," Simien said.

"It felt good on the release, but I didn't hit it."

Bucknell knew it could hang with the big boys after winning at Pittsburgh when the Panthers were undefeated and ranked No. 7. The Bison also beat NCAA team Niagara and won at St. Joseph's.

Vermont: Spartans next for upstart Catamounts

VERMONT, FROM BACK PAGE

When Gerry McNamara missed a desperation three from the top of the key in the final seconds, the Cats had their first NCAA tournament victory. They swarmed together and hugged in celebration, jumping up and down as Brennan raised his right arm in a triumphant salute to the team's legion of fans shouting in the stands.

"People are going to say we shocked the world, but to this group of guys, we knew we had a shot to win this game," reserve Alex Jensen said as the players doused each other with water in the jubilant locker room. "Everybody was sending Syracuse to the Final Four, but we knew we could win this game if we played the way we did."

Niila finished with a career-high 20 points. Sorrentine had 17, and Taylor Coppentrath added 16 for Vermont. The Catamounts will face fifth-seeded Michigan State in the second round Sunday. The Spartans beat Old Dominion 89-81.

Fourth-seeded Syracuse (27-7) had hopes of making the Final Four for the second time in three years.

"It's going to keep getting better and better," Vermont center Martin Klimes said. "We did the first step. We're going to get some

rest right now and prepare for the next game. It's not over."

Syracuse coach Jim Boheim left the court with his head down, and the players followed.

"They just outplayed us," said forward Terrence Roberts, who had seven points and seven rebounds. "They hit some clutch shots down the stretch. That's what buried us."

Brennan paced back and forth in front of the bench, thrusting his fist in the air each time the Catamounts took the lead, and the Vermont players were told by the officials several times to stay on the bench.

Syracuse never got on track, committing a season-high 24 turnovers. Hakim Warrick ended the final game of his impressive career with 21 points and 12 rebounds, but he also committed 10 turnovers. McNamara had 11 points but was 1-for-7 on three-pointers and the most distraught of the Orange.

"Sometimes, you just don't have it," McNamara said.

Vermont played a deliberate game, slowing the pace and never allowing the Orange to make a run. McNamara struggled to find open looks and the Catamounts dominated the glass early to stay close.

The game was tied 11 times and there were eight lead changes.



High Speed Eyewear Meets High Speed Racing

Wiley X proudly supports U.S. Army Racing...and we want the world to know it



John Nemech

Catch Army Racing in 2005 as they compete for the Nextel Cup Championship

for more information, call 1.800.776.7842 or visit www.wileyx.com





SPORTS



Nelson resigns as coach of Mavericks,
turns team over to assistant Johnson,
Page 25

Bracket busters

Vermont
pulls off
OT win vs.
Syracuse

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — Tom Brennan would have retired a happy man regardless. But his 264th victory at Vermont made his impending departure a whole lot sweeter.

The wildly popular coach cried openly Friday night after his 13th-seeded Catamounts earned their biggest victory in school history. German Mopa Njila and T.J. Sorrentine hit consecutive three-pointers in a 48-second span of overtime, and Vermont upset Big East champion Syracuse 60-57 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"When that went in, I thought I might burst," Brennan said of Sorrentine's long three from the top of the key. "I thought you might find me in pieces around the arena because there's no drug, nothing in the world that is that feeling. There's nothing that can make you feel like that except competition and going through a lot with your guys, especially ones you love."

SEE VERMONT ON PAGE 31



Vermont players celebrate after their 60-57 overtime victory over Syracuse in the first round of the NCAA tournament Friday night in Worcester, Mass. It was Vermont's first victory in the tournament in three tries.

Bucknell beats Kansas
when Simien misses

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Kansas Jayhawks flirted with first-round elimination several times in the last 15 NCAA tournaments, but always avoided it. They weren't able to Friday night against a No. 14 seed with zero NCAA tournament victories in its 110-year history, five scholarship players and a borrowed band.

That would be the Bucknell Bison, who beat the third-seeded Jayhawks 64-63 and shook up the Syracuse Regional when Chris McNaughton banked in a hook shot over Wayne Simien with 10.5 seconds left, and Simien missed an open 15-foot jumper at the buzzer.

"Unbelievable," said guard

Kevin Bettencourt, who led Bucknell with 19 points, including five three-pointers.

As crushing as the loss is for preseason No. 1 Kansas, it's even more stunning for the winners. They've been playing since 1896, the first season of Division I play, and were 0-for-2 in the NCAA, losing their previous tries by 22 and 23 points in the late 1980s.

No team from their conference, the Patriot League, had ever won an NCAA tournament game in 13 tries.

Bucknell (23-9) is the first No. 14 seed to win since Weber State beat North Carolina in 1999. The Bison will try doing it again Sunday against sixth-seeded Wisconsin (23-8), which beat Northern Iowa 57-52 earlier Friday.

SEE BUCKNELL ON PAGE 31



Bucknell's Donald Brown celebrates the Bison's 64-63 victory over Kansas in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Oklahoma City on Friday. Bucknell became the first Patriot League team to win in the tournament.



Louisville gets
past tough
La.-Lafayette

Page 30

Duke's Krzyzewski
ties Dean Smith
with 65th victory

Page 29



12-time All-Star
Alomar announces
retirement

Page 27



Big Mac's
credibility
taking beating
after testimony

Page 27



Atlantic-leading
Celtics get strong
effort from bench
at Houston,
win sixth straight

Page 25